

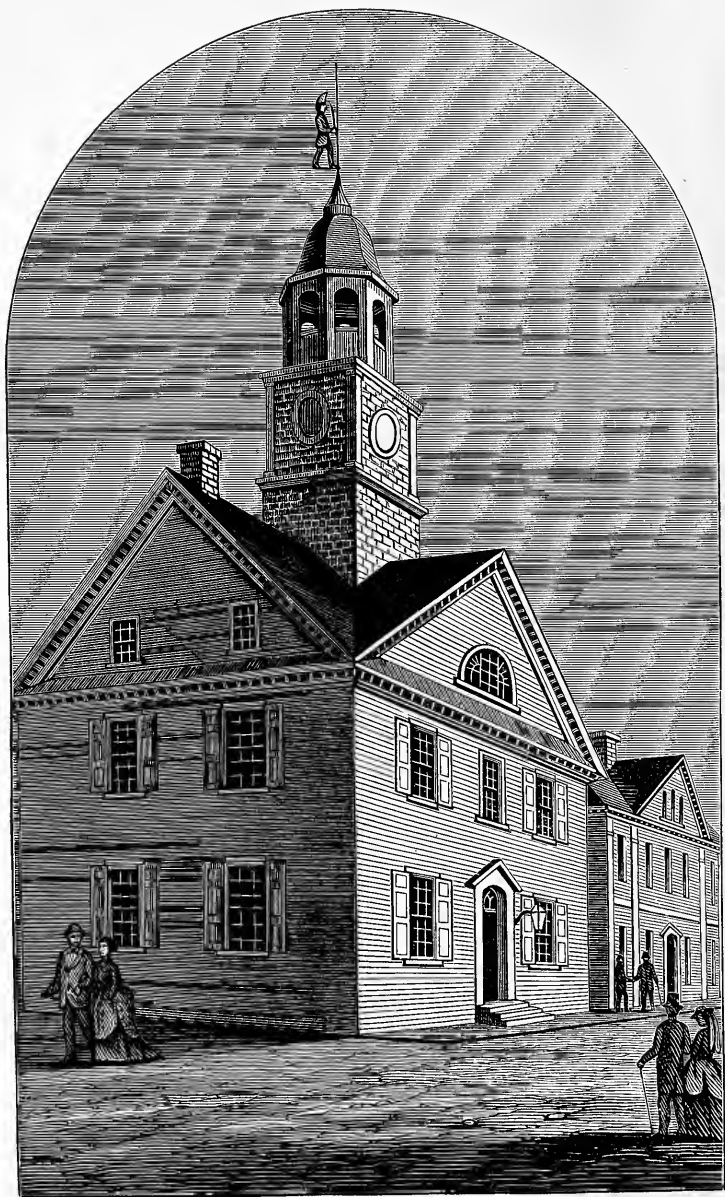


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THE OLD COURT HOUSE.

THE  
HISTORICAL SKETCH,  
AND ACCOUNT OF THE  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AT

YORK, PA.,

JULY 4, 1876.

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Containing an accurate account of the proceedings from the time of the passage of the resolution by the Town Council to celebrate the Nation's birth and the appointment of a committee to carry out the spirit of the resolution, up to the close of the celebration; the earnest and eloquent Prayer offered by the venerable Dr. A. H. Lochman; the elaborate and instructive Historical Sketch prepared by John Gibson, Esq.; the beautiful Poem by E. N. Gunnison, Esq., and the eloquent Oration delivered by George W. McElroy, Esq.

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YORK, PENNA.  
DEMOCRATIC PRESS PRINT.

1876.

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EDWARD STUCK,  
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## INTRODUCTION.

At the close of the labors of the Centennial Committee of arrangements of the Borough of York, it was deemed advisable as a matter of record for the information of future generations, that a detailed account of the celebration of the nation's birth, be preserved, commencing with the resolutions passed by the Congress of the United States, and continuing with the proclamation of President Grant and Governor Hartranft, the proceedings of the Committee of Arrangements, and the subsequent observance of the Centennial 4th, in all its particulars.

In order to carry the wishes of the Committee into effect, the following resolution was adopted:

"The entire proceedings of the celebration were ordered to be published in pamphlet form, and Edward Stuck was authorized to prepare the same for publication with the assistance of the following committee:— Capt. Frank Geise, I. W. G. Wierman, G. W. Winehold, James Dale and Dr. Meisenhelder."

At this meeting, the committee also adjusted its finances, and had the proud satisfaction of finding that the funds collected were sufficient to settle all the indebtedness incurred in the celebration. As they were about to adjourn *sine die*, the idea was suggested and concurred in, that the Committee continue its organization and meet at such time and place as may be convenient, upon the recurrence of each fourth of July and commemorate the national anniversary so long as one member of the Committee shall survive.

Shortly after the 4th of July, the publication committee met and addressed communications to the authors of the Prayer, Historical Sketch, Poem and Oration, which we append herewith, with the replies thereto, and after considerable work, have the pleasure to present the result of their labors to the people, whose approbation, we hope it will meet.

YORK, PA., July 10, 1876.

JOHN GIBSON, Esq.,

*Dear Sir:*--In accordance with the accompanying resolution, passed at the last meeting of the Centennial Committee of the Borough of York, the committee, therein named, respectfully request you to furnish us with a copy of your valuable Historical Sketch, for publication, in connection with the Prayer, Poem, Oration and other events connected with that memorable celebration of the nation's birth, and hope you will grant our request. The information it contains, and the interest it awakened at the time of its reading, demand that its presentation be secured in such form as to place it in the hands of the people, as also, to hand it down to future generations.

Very respectfully yours,

THE COMMITTEE.

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*Centennial Publication Committee.*

GENTLEMEN:—Your kind favor has been received. The sketch was hastily prepared, and as far as was possible, it was framed in accordance with the recommendation of Congress. The statistics of our material progress are published from time to time and it does not need any record of such to prove it. Material wealth alone is not the only test of "the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence." Therefore, I have attempted to show the part taken by our immediate ancestors in the moulding of our system of free government, the patriotism of our people in the times of our country's need, their public spirit in measures for the common good, and their zealous support of those institutions which are designed to foster the great interests of education and religion; all these are evidences of our prosperity and of the appreciation at all times by our people of those blessings of civil and religious liberty, bequeathed to us by our fathers.

I have omitted some things which may be thought matters of historical interest, where they were not directly connected with the

progress of our institutions, and which may be found collected in histories of the county long since compiled. Where I have omitted other facts, I can only say it was from want of information, and that it was not required of me to compose a history of the county, but a *sketch* illustrative of the part our people had taken in the progress of our institutions, and by that standard only I ask that it be measured.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN GIBSON.

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YORK, PA., July 10, 1876.

GEO. W. McELROY, Esq.

*Dear Sir:*—We will be under many obligations to you for a copy of your able and eloquent address, delivered on the occasion of the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary, in Centre Square, for the purpose of publishing it in pamphlet form, to preserve it with the history of that extraordinary occasion.

Yours, &c,

COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

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*Centennial Publication Committee.*

GENTLEMEN:—Your note requesting a copy of my address, delivered at our Centennial Celebration on the 4th of July last, has been duly received. While I cheerfully comply with your request to have the same published, I cannot but express my regret that a want of sufficient time to devote to its preparation, prevented me from avoiding the many imperfections it contains.

Yours truly and sincerely,

GEO. W. McELROY.

CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
CENTENNIAL 4TH OF JULY,  
AT  
YORK, PENN'A., JULY 4th, 1876.

The following is the resolution passed by the Congress of the United States, on the 1st of March, 1876, and the proclamation of the President, issued in accordance therewith, May 25, 1876 :

WHEREAS a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the 13th day of March last, which resolution is as follows :

*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching centennial anniversary of our national independence, that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed in print or manuscript in the clerk's office of said county and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence and whereas it is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the people of the United States.

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth.

By the President,  
HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

U. S. GRANT.

On the 29th day of April, the Governor of Pennsylvania, issued the following proclamation :

WHEREAS, By a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, approved March 13, 1876, it is recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching Centennial anniversary of our national independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed in print or manuscript in the clerk's office in said county ; and that an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first Centennial of their existence.

Now, therefore, I, John F. Hartranft, Governor as aforesaid, do hereby favorably commend this resolution to the people and the authorities of the various cities, counties and towns of this Commonwealth, with the request that wherever the observance of the incoming anniversary of our national independence will permit, provision may be made to comply with the recommendation contained therein, so that these historical sketches may be made to embrace all the information and statistics that can be obtained in relation to the first century of our existence as a Commonwealth

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at Harrisburg, this twenty-first day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six and of the Commonwealth the one hundredth.

JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

M. S. QUAY, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

On the first of June there was a meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of York.

JERE CARL, Chief Burgess.

First Ward—John Mayer, T. K. White.

Second “ —E. J. Case, Henry Weitzel.

Third “ —W. H. Griffith, David Emmitt.

Fourth “ —Geo. A. Barnitz, Geo. W. Dietz

Fifth “ —Geo. F. Baugher, John Fahs, Jr.

Sixth “ —Geo. W. Winehold, Jas. B. Small.

Seventh “ —Solomon Rupp, I. W. G. Wierman

Eighth “ —Henry Wagner, Andrew Harline.

Ninth “ —Dr. Ed. W. Meisenhelder, John Herman.

The following resolutions were adopted :

*Resolved*, That a committee of five shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to solicit voluntary contributions from the citizens of York and York county, in order that we may have a proper celebration of this Centennial Fourth of July, as requested by the joint resolution of Congress, approved March 13, 1875, and further advised by the President's proclamation of May 25, 1876.

*Resolved, further*, That this committee shall be empowered to solicit from the Commissioners of York county such pecuniary aid as they may be willing to give to the furtherance of this project, and in honor of the noble yeomanry of York county, who, a century ago, were among the first to respond to the call to arms.

*Resolved further*, That this committee shall have power and are requested to select a suitable person to prepare a historical sketch of York and York county, from its settlement to this date, in order that the same may be delivered here on the 4th of July ensuing, and a copy placed on file in the office of the Librarian of Congress, and in the Clerk's office of this county, in accordance with the aforementioned act of Congress.

*Resolved*, That this committee shall also select some suitable person to deliver an oration on the centennial anniversary in the Borough of York, at such time and place, on that day, as they may arrange.

*Resolved*, That it shall further be the duty of this committee to have erected in the public square a liberty pole from which shall be unfurled a national flag of good material, not costing over one hundred dollars, and from the top of which staff shall float a streamer having the inscription "1776 Centennial 1876," and near the lower part of the staff shall be placed the inscription: "Erected by the citizens of York county, to the memory of their patriot fathers."

*Resolved*, That the committee shall be empowered to make such other arrangements and do such other acts, as shall secure a patriotic observance of the ensuing centennial anniversary.

A committee, in accordance with the resolutions was appointed, who met on the 5th of June, and recommended the co-operation of a committee of citizens, two from each ward, and issued the following circular:

YORK, PA., June 5, 1876.

At a meeting of the Town Council, held June 1, 1876, it was resolved that some action should be taken in reference to a proper celebration of the Nation's Centennial, both for the purpose of commemorating that happy event and of paying a fitting tribute to the memory of the brave men who, in that fearful struggle, faithfully represented the sturdy patriots of York county. Now, therefore, that the day may be fitly observed, in accordance with the President's Proclamation of May 25, and the Governor's Proc-

lamation of April 29, 1876, requesting such action, we extend a cordial invitation to \_\_\_\_\_ to take an active part in encouraging this worthy object, to the end, that with one united effort, we may make the coming Fourth a day long to be remembered and the demonstration a triumphant success.

York county, one hundred years ago, was the scene of many a stirring event in our National history, and it is proper that here in York which proved to be a city of refuge to the Continental Congress when driven out of Philadelphia, there should be enkindled a spirit of enthusiasm worthy of the occasion. Men of York county in honor of your heroic ancestors who feared neither the edicts of a royal tyrant, nor the treble peril of the halter, battle field, or prison cell, once more to the rescue!

EDMUND W. MEISENHOLDER,      GEORGE W. WINEHOLD,  
T. K. WHITE,                              I. W. G. WIERMAN,  
WM H. GRIFFITH.

P. S.—Please advise the Committee of your acceptance of this invitation.

The committee of citizens was composed of the following named gentlemen:

CHAS. W. MYERS, EDW. CHAPIN, EDW'D. STUCK, L. T. DEININGER, ADAM REISINGER, JAS. A. DALE, FRANK GEISE, M. L. VAN BAMAN, H. GIPE, DR. C. H. BRESSLER, DAVID MYERS, W. S. SCHROEDER, MARTIN BENDER, J. P. FRICK, M. J. SEITZ, W. Y. LINK.

The council and citizens committee, met on the 9th of June, and

On motion, it was agreed that Rev. Dr. A. H. Lochman be requested to offer the prayer.

On motion, it was agreed that Fitz James Evans, Esq., be requested to read the Declaration of Independence.

On motion, it was agreed that E. Norman Gunnison, Esq., be requested to write the Poem.

On motion, it was agreed that John Gibson, Esq., be requested to write a Historical Sketch of York county.

On motion, it was agreed that Geo. W. McElroy, Esq., be requested to deliver the Oration.

On motion, it was agreed that Frank Geise, Esq., be requested to act as Chief Marshal.

On motion, it was agreed that Prof. Thiele be requested to lead the Instrumental Music, and Prof. H. Gipe the Vocal Music.

On motion, it was agreed that I. W. G. Wierman, Esq., be requested to procure a Flag Staff 100 feet high out of the ground, in two sections, painted white, and substantially mounted.

It was determined by the town council committee that the sev-

eral ward committees shall constitute an advisory committee to act in conjunction with the regular committee in making the arrangements for the proper celebration of the coming Fourth of July.

On the 10th of June the joint committees adopted the following programme:

1. General illumination and ringing of bells from 12 M. to 1 A. M.

2. National airs by chimes of Trinity Reformed church from 4 to 5 A. M.

3. Salute of 13 guns at sunrise on the Commons.

4. Raising of national flag in Centre Square by soldiers of the war of 1812, at 6 o'clock A. M., with music by Citizens' Band.

5. Parade of Military, Fire, Civic Associations, Citizens, &c Parade to form at 9 and move at 9½ o'clock, sharp

6. National airs by united bands at close of parade in Centre Square.

7. 1st, Prayer, by Rev. A. H. Lochman, D. D. 2nd, Music, "One Hundred Years ago," Haydn Quartette, 3rd, Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Fitz James Evans. 4th, Music, by Citizens' Band. 5th, Historical Sketch of York county, by John Gibson, Esq. 6th, Music, "The Sword of Bunker Hill," by the Haydn Quartette. 7th, Benediction and Dismissal.

8. In Centre Square at 6.30. 1st, Music, "Star Spangled Banner," by Grand Chorus. 2nd, Poem, by E. Norman Gunnison. 3rd, Music, "Hail Columbia," Grand Chorus. 4th, Oration, by Geo. W. McElroy, Esq. 5th, America, by Grand Chorus

9 Doxology.

10. *Fire Works*—At 8½ p. m. the display of fireworks.

At this meeting it was resolved by the committees that invitations be and the same are hereby extended to all military, firemen, musical, civic and social organizations, and to the soldiers of the wars of 1812, Mexican and the late war, of York county, to participate in the parade and celebration of July 7th next.

The morning of the Fourth was ushered in with unexampled enthusiasm. At the stroke of twelve, midnight, a burst of light illuminated the town, and the simultaneous reports of innumerable numbers of small fire-arms were heard in every direction sounding like those of heavy platoons of artillery; the houses were brightly illuminated and the church, engine and other bells were rung for hours, and the wildest excitement prevailed, which had the effect of stimulating every one with an unusual degree of patriotism. At 6 o'clock the raising of the national flag, by soldiers of the war of 1812, in Centre Square, took place. In the morning



at 9 o'clock the procession, according to the programme, was formed in the following order :

*Order of Procession.*—Chief Marshal, Frank Geise. Aids to Chief Marshal, Geo. W. Heiges, H. S. McNair, John Blackford. Horace Keesey.

Committee of Arrangements.—1st *Division.*—Marshal, Lieut. Col. A. C. Stieg. Co. A, 8th Regt. N. G.; Co. C, 8th Regt. N. G.; York Grays.

2d *Division.*—Marshal, A. B. Jack. Worth Infantry Band, Laurel Fire Co., Rescue Fire Co., Union Fire Co.

3d *Division.*—Marshal, A. T. Patterson. Mt. Vernon Encampment No. 14, I. O. O. F.; Humane Lodge No. 342, I. O. O. F.; Wm. Penn Lodge No. 2, I. O. M.; Dallastown Lodge No. 8, I. O. M.

4th *Division.*—Marshal, Samuel Wallick. Hanover Lodge, Knights of Pythias; White Rose Lodge K. of P., 211; Conewingo Tribe No. 75, I. O. R. M.; Codorus Tribe No. 78, I. O. R. M.; Conewago Tribe No. 37, I. O. R. M.

5th *Division.*—Marshal, John Mayer. St. Mary's Beneficial Association, St. Joseph's Beneficial Association, Arbeiter Association, St. Patrick's Beneficial Association (No. 100, I. C. B. U.)

6th *Division.*—Marshal, Geo. B. Cole. Friendly Circle No. 19, B. U. (H. F.) C. A.; Union Circle No. 2, B. U. (H. F.) C. A.; York Star Circle No. 47, B. U. (H. F.) C. A.; Mystic Band of Brothers, Eureka Council No. 17.

7th *Division.*—Marshals, W. F. Eichar and G. W. Welker. York Council No. 243, O. U. A. M.; Rose Council No. 316, O. U. A. M.; Codorus Council No. 115, O. U. A. M.; Laurel Council No. 163, O. U. A. M.; Summerfield Council No. 165, O. U. A. M.

8th *Division.*—Marshals, Isaac Rudisill and W. S. Schroeder. Chief Burgess, Town Council and its guests, County Officers, Board of School Control, Borough Superintendent, and a representative of the Public Schools of York, Soldiers of the late War and the Mexican War, Soldiers of the War of 1812, in carriages, Children of the "Home" in carriages, Historian, Orator, Poet, Reader of the Declaration of Independence, &c., Clergy of York Borough, Citizens of York and vicinity in carriages, Members of the Bar and Bench, Representatives of different industries of York in vehicles, Delegations mounted.

A number of wagons were in procession, upon which a number of our mechanics were at work, in their respective callings. A large-sized Gordon press was placed upon a wagon, by the enterprising publisher of the *York Daily*, from which was issued miniature copies of his paper and distributed gratuitously along the line. Rupert & Humer, tanners, were in procession making tin-

ware; Brashears & Son were cutting stone; seven coopers were making barrels upon a large wagon; probably the most interesting wagon in line, was the brickyard of Mr. Wm. Wilt. The workmen in the yard were very industrious turning the brick out quite rapidly. One of them was kneading the clay with his bare feet; two music stores—J. W. Weaver's and J. W. Boll's were represented in line, with organ playing, as were also hatters, bakers sewing machines, reapers, and other mechanical interests.

The number of persons in the procession is variously estimated at from four to six thousand. Delegations were present from Hanover, Wrightsville, Dallastown and the townships along the line of the Peach Bottom Railroad, and other points.

All along the route our citizens generally contributed a bountiful supply of ice water, in many instances, large tubs from which were suspended a number of tincups, by which the participants in the parade were enabled to quench their thirst and refresh themselves during the march. This action of our citizen cannot be too highly commended and it speaks well for the generosity and patriotism of our people.

The procession, after having gone over the route returned to the stand erected in Centre square, where after prayer by the Rev. Dr. A. H. Lochman, music by the united bands, the Declaration of Independence was read by Fitz James Evans, Esq., and the Historical Sketch of York County delivered by John Gibson, Esq.

In the evening at six o'clock, the people again assembled in front of the stand in Centre Square and listened to the Grand Chorus, under the direction of Prof. Gipe, the reading of the Poem by E. Norman Gunnison, Esq., and the Oration by George W. McElroy, Esq. After which the people adjourned to the Fair Grounds and witnessed the splendid exhibition of fire works furnished by the committee of arrangements.

Thus ended the celebration of the Centennial Fourth of July in York, in which the citizens participated with characteristic enthusiasm, their hearts filled with patriotic emotions and uniting with zeal in the arrangements made by the authorities of the nation, the state and the Borough, making it a success worthy of being recorded for future generations.

## THE PRAYER

*Offered at the Opening of the Centennial Exercises on  
July 4th, 1876.*

BY REV. A. H. LOCHMAN, D. D.

Penetrated by a sense of Thine excellent greatness, Thy infinite Majesty and Thy boundless goodness, under a conviction of our entire dependence upon Thee as individuals and as a nation, we address Thy throne of grace.

All nations are before Thee as a drop of the bucket—Thou weighest the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance—Thou takest up the isles of the sea as a very little thing—Thou makest the winds Thy chariot—Thy path is upon the mighty deep—Thou reignest in heaven and rulest upon the earth—Thy kingdom is over all, and Thy dominion hath no end, but Thy goodness is equal to Thy greatness, and Thy mercy tempers Thy judgments; Therefore, whilst we tremblingly adore, we would confidently trust in Thee. We thank Thee, that the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places, and that ours is a goodly heritage. For the blessings of civil and religious liberty we have so long and richly enjoyed, for that government under which we have so long lived in security at home, and honored abroad. We pray Thee graciously to regard us and bestow upon

us Thy superintending care in days to come, as Thou hast in days past.

Preserve untarnished the fair fame of our country's glory, and enable us to transmit to our latest posterity, the rich legacy bequeathed to us by our fathers. Make this land a praise and glory in the earth, and a blessing to all nations; especially do we beseech Thee, to look graciously upon us and the millions of this land, whilst celebrating this our hundredth birthday as a nation, and whilst engaged in our festivities may we never forget that Thine eye is upon us—and may our rejoicings be tempered with propriety. We bless Thee that thou hast, for every emergency, called forth and qualified men to carry out Thy gracious purposes.

We thank Thee for that noble, dignified and self-sacrificing patriotic band who this day one hundred years ago penned that unequalled declaration of our rights as freemen, and in its support pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. We bless Thee for the trumpet-tongue of the old bell whose echoes roused the spirit of patriotism throughout the land—for the heroism with which Thou didst inspire our revolutionary sires, that they were able to maintain the declaration of their rights and that Thou didst establish us as an independent nation. We bless Thee that ever since we have had an existence as a people, Thou hast never withdrawn Thy favor—but hast brought us unscathed through the severest trials of foreign aggression and of unparalleled domestic

strife; and that the world over, this land is known as the home of the free and the land of the brave—that the problem has been solved by the experience and testimony of 100 years that man is capable of self-government. For the unequalled progress we have made as a nation in every department of national prosperity—for the development of all our natural resources, so that though but in our infancy we have taken high rank among the nations of the earth—for all these and other manifestations of Thy favor we would render to Thee our heartfelt acknowledgments—and we would beseech Thee be Thou with us as Thou hast been with our fathers, take this land under Thy special care and favor—make this government a blessing to us and an example to all other nations, may the fair fabric of our republican government rise higher and higher until from its commanding peak its light shall shine and the notes of her fame shall echo throughout the world and proclaim to the already tottering thrones of monarchs: A nation if sober, moral and virtuous is capable of self-government.

We pray Thee, O God, baptize this nation with the Holy Ghost, that all its resources and energies may be consecrated to Thy service—that we may become a God-fearing, religious and holy people—as renowned for its virtue and piety as for its civil and religious liberty.

Bless all those in authority from the highest to the lowest; may they be men suited to their position, may they rule in the fear of God, and may their best efforts

be to promote the highest interests of the Republic.

These Thanksgivings we render, and these petitions we offer in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, we would ascribe honor, praise and glory, forever. Amen.

# HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

COUNTY OF YORK, PENNSYLVANIA.

*Delivered at York, July 4, 1876.*

FELLOW CITIZENS :

We greet this anniversary and each other to-day with more than ordinary enthusiasm.— We rejoice because our nation has attained a century of existence, and hail the commencement of a new era under the auspices of free government. The Congress of the United States have recommended, that on the centennial anniversary of our national independence, an historical sketch of each county or town from its formation be delivered to the assembled people, “to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence.” To illustrate then the part our own people have taken in the progress of that political freedom and material prosperity which is the boast of our common country, and to show what we have done and contributed towards its vast expansiveness of national grandeur, is my task to-day.

The Founder of this Commonwealth planted his colony in the forests of Pennsylvania as a “Holy Ex-

periment." The doctrine taught by him and the religious sect with which he was joined, was received with no favor ; yet the "inner light" of the Quaker is the foundation of all true liberty and government—not forms, made for the people, but by the people for themselves. When William Penn landed upon the shore of the Delaware on the 27th of October, 1682, the right of representation was enjoyed to some extent in all the colonies which had preceded his ; but freedom of conscience, combined with free government, had not yet entirely been accepted. The language of the Quaker proprietaries was : "We lay a foundation for after ages to understand their liberty as Christians and as men, that they may not be brought into bondage, but by their own consent, for we put the Power in the People."

The history of the people of the United States of America, of Pennsylvania, and of York County, is the same in every feature, from the first settlements among the aborigines, on through the struggle for popular rights, to the present consummation. A race of men occupied these lands before us, who have disappeared before what we call civilization. No attempt has been made to investigate the history of the tribes who inhabited this region, though there is room for the exercise of the skill of the archæologist in deciphering inscriptions, or other rude and scanty remains of the aboriginal inhabitants. We hold the lands that they occupied, and therefore ought to show the origin of our titles, and see how we were planted here.



Although William Penn had title under the warrant of Charles II by European Law, he had  
The acquired an independent title from the Indians;  
Manor from the Five Nations who claimed to have conquered the resident tribes on the Susquehanna, from the Kings of the Susquehannas, and from the Conestogas. So too an independent title was acquired to the Springettsbury Manor.

Three nations of Indians, as they are called in the old records, had their towns and settlements on the north or east bank of the Susquehanna River, and were much disturbed by the settlements of intruders "over against them." They requested, at a treaty, that a large tract of land right against their towns on the Susquehanna might be surveyed for the proprietary's use only, trusting to his bounty and goodness for whatever was necessary and convenient for them.

By the primitive regulations for laying out lands in the province, William Penn had issued a warrant to the surveyor general, to survey for the proprietor, five hundred acres of every township of five thousand acres. This was the proprietary one tenth. But it was said that the tracts surveyed were far short of the proprietary's due, and therefore there was surveyed for his use, on the 19th and 20th of June, 1722, a certain tract of land, situate on the west side of the Susquehanna, then in the county of Chester, afterwards of Lancaster, and now of York, containing 75,520 acres; commencing on the Susquehanna, opposite the mouth of Conestoga creek, extending

thence W. S. W. ten miles, thence N. W. by N. twelve miles, thence E. N. E. eight miles, and thence along Sir William Keith's tract, called Newberry, to the Susquehanna river again, in the name and for the use of the Honorable Springett Penn, Esquire, to bear his name and be called the manor of Springetts-bury. A part of this original tract was subsequently cut off, under an agreement between Penn and Baltimore, to satisfy the claims of Maryland settlers; and by a survey in 1768, it was found to contain 64,520 acres; bounded by a north and south line west of the dwelling plantation of Christian Oyster, and by east and west lines about three miles distant north and south from York. These lines might be traced, in the original titles of the lands embraced by them, with some degree of interest to the present holders.

The proprietary manors were reserved by the legislature after the Revolution to the Penns, while their title to all other lands in the province was divested in favor of the Commonwealth. Springett Penn was the grandson of William Penn, the son of his oldest son, William, and hence the heir at-law. Governor Keith told the Indians, at the treaty, that Springett Penn, "now a man as tall as he," was the lord of all this country in the room of his grandfather. But the grandfather by his will gave Pennsylvania to the younger branch of the family, little estimating its immense value. John, Thomas and Richard took possession, and through them the titles to all lands within the manor are derived.

Governor Keith also told the Indians, that when he

would cause the tract of land to be taken up on the other side of the Susquehanna for the grandson of William Penn, and the land would be marked with Springett Penn's name upon the trees, it would keep off the "Mary Landers," and every other person whatsoever, from coming to settle near them to disturb them. This assurance proved fallacious. For the Maryland intrusions became so great, that in order to resist them, encouragement had to be offered to persons for forming settlements on the tract surveyed.—The confirmation of the titles of these Pennsylvania settlers was delayed on account of Indian claims to the land, which were finally released on the 11th of October, 1736. Those who had settled at that time, were, perhaps, fifty in number; but in addition to them the population of the manor tract and of the neighboring country rapidly increased.

These first settlements were by Germans, about Kreutz and Codorus creeks, and hence were  
The  
Early  
Settlers. populated Hellam, Springgarden, York, Shrewsbury and Springfield townships.—These settlers were Lutherans and German Reformed, and they soon formed congregations. The Barrens were settled about the same time by Scotch Irish, and hence were populated Chanceford, Fawn, Peachbottom, Hopewell and part of Windsor townships. They were Presbyterians and soon built a church near Muddy creek. The term "barrens" was derived from the lack of timber in that section of the county, cleared, it is said, by the fires of the Indians for hunting purposes; a term no longer applicable, in

any sense, to the improved and flourishing farms in those townships. Then Quaker families from Chester settled in Newberry township, among the Red Lands, followed by others, and so was filled the northern part of the county, Newberry, Fairview, Monaghan, Warrington, Franklin, Washington and Carrol townships. Among these settlers was Ellis Lewis, the ancestor of one of the chief justices of this state. A Maryland patent to John Digges of 10,000 acres, included the site of Hanover, Heidelberg township of York county, and Germany and Conewago, now of Adams. There were also settlers about the Pigeon Hills under Maryland titles. Germans followed here, and spread themselves over all the central and richer portions of the county.

The Germans who came over the river as early as 1729 to the fertile soil about Kreutz creek, had some severe trials to undergo. They were driven from their homes, seized and imprisoned by the Maryland intruders, who tried by force to maintain their claims under the pretended title of Lord Baltimore, as far as Wright's Ferry, the site of Wrightsville, and at one time almost to the limits of the after site of Yorktown. The dispute began in the life time of William Penn, and was not settled for fifty years after his death. In this early period when York County was first settled by Pennsylvanians, the violent attempts to drive them out, made this border country a scene of strife and bloodshed. History is travestied when we find, that the most notorious of these intruders, a

quarrelsome man, who kept up a continual broil and breach of the peace, exciting the detestation of the Pennsylvanians, appears in the annals of Maryland, as Col. Thomas Cressap, a colonial hero.

Cressap is still traditionally remembered in the section of country which he made so warm. He built a fort at the mouth of the creek where Leber's mill now is, in Lower Windsor township. Armed bands sent hither by the countenance, if not by the express orders, of Governor Ogle of Maryland, were under his command, and many acts of violence were committed upon the just owners, which were ended only by his arrest by the sheriff of Lancaster County, after a desperate fight; which event occurred on the 23rd of November, 1736. Cressap claimed under a patent from the Governor of Maryland, who also granted to another over zealous intermeddler with other people's rights, one Charles Higgenbotham, a patent for land north of the Codorus; a man who rivalled Cressap in violent attempts to eject our Pennsylvania settlers and drive them from their lands west of the Susquehanna. But the Germans when aroused were able to maintain their rights.

This mode of summary ejectment tried by Cressap and Higgenbotham did not originate with them. It was the way of the time, and they acted under authority, such as it was. So, when at an earlier period, in 1721, a man by the name of John Grist squatted west of the Susquehanna, and of course could not get along with the Indians, a warrant, with the *posse comitatus*, was issued, with instructions to burn and destroy the dwell-

lings and habitations of himself and accomplices in case of refusal. This was not done to the letter, but on the other hand, when Indians destroyed some of his property, with true squatter claims he made complaint to the Council at Philadelphia. The question of squatter sovereignty, which is hardly settled in our day, was not entertained by that board, and Grist was put to jail, and released only on condition of his removal from the lands he had occupied. This is the history of the first squatter in this section of country. Others attempted the same after the manor was laid out, and they were also removed. The first authorized settlement was made in 1729, and licenses were thereafter issued, which the Germans eagerly accepted, and after their troubles enjoyed happy homes as we know to this day.

It would be well here as a part of the history of social developement to contrast the "simplicity of the first settlers in this region with the fashions of the present day. In the language of the History of York county: "The early inhabitants of the Kreutz creek region were clothed for some years, altogether in tow cloth as wool was an article not to be obtained.— Their dress was simple, consisting of a shirt, trowsers and frock. During the heat of summer, a shirt and trowsers of tow formed the only raiment of the inhabitants. In the fall the frock was superadded.— When the cold of winter was before the door, and Boreas came rushing from the North, the dress was adapted to the season by increasing the number of frocks, so that in the coldest part of the winter, some

of the sturdy settlers were wrapt in four, five and even more frocks. which were bound closely about their loins, usually with a string of the same material as the garments."

"But man ever progresses ; and when sheep were introduced, a mixture of tow and wool was considered an article of luxury. But tow was shortly afterwards succeeded by cotton, and then *linsey woolsey* was a piece of the wildest extravagance. If these simple, plain and honest worthies could look down upon their descendants of the present day, they would wonder and weep at the changes of men and things. If a party of them could be spectators of a ball of these times, in the Borough of York, and see silks and crapes, and jewels and gold, in lieu of tow frocks and linsey woolsey finery, they would scarcely recognize their descendants, in the costly and splendid dresses before them ; but would no doubt be ready to imagine that the nobles and princes of the earth were assembled at a royal bridal. But these honest progenitors of ours have passed away, and have left many of us, we fear, nothing but the names they bore, to mark us their descendants." Though they also lived in log houses, and used wooden cups and platters and spoons, with pewter as an imported luxury, they knew how to select choice, fertile spots for farms.

Around and about them were the Indians, occasionally robbing an apple orchard or frightening with red painted faces the women and children, and not dangerous unless under the influence of fire water, for which they showed an intense fondness, chiefs and

squaws alike, when they could get it. The policy of William Penn had made it peaceful throughout the province, with the savages; but some of the tribes further off were troublesome, and constant negotiations and treaties were had and made through commissioners. The principal of these was the celebrated interpreter Conrad Weiser, the progenitor of a large number of descendants, through this region of country. An ancestor of whom they may well be proud.

The first public improvement made, was a road from Wright's Ferry westward, laid out in 1740, on the application of the inhabitants of Hellam, which appears to have been the first township erected west of the Susquehanna. This road was intended to reach the Potomac and led to the Monocacy road, near the Province line, a distance of about thirty-four miles.—It crossed the Big Codorus, as it is styled in the survey, about where Philadelphia street now crosses that stream; then in the midst of a wilderness.

“Although there were many habitations in its neighborhood, yet so late as the year 1740, there Yorktown. was not one building within the present limits of the Borough of York.” The History of York county says: “The ‘Queen of the Wilderness’ then held her solitary throne where now the ‘city full’ is cheered with everything that art and industry can render lovely or attractive.”

A survey for the proprietor's use was made in October, 1741, of a tract on both sides of the Codorus, within the limits of Springettsbury manor, for the *scite*



of a town whereon York has since been laid out and built. The part east of the Codorus was laid out into squares, after the manner of Philadelphia. The squares were made 480 feet by 520 feet; the lots 230 by 65. Two streets eighty feet wide were to cross each other, and 65 feet square was to be cut off the corner of each block to make a square for any public buildings or market of 110 feet each side.

On request made to the proprietors for permission to "take up a lot," a certificate or ticket, as it was called, was issued to the applicant, and the lot was then surveyed to him. The certificate only gave a right to build in order to obtain a patent; and was granted on condition: "that the applicant build upon the lot at his own proper cost one substantial dwelling house of the dimensions of sixteen feet square at least, with a good chimney of brick or stone to be laid in or built with lime or sand, within the space of one year from the time of his entry for the same." A yearly rent was to be paid to the proprietor of seven shillings.

"The first application or entry of names for lots in Yorktown was in November, 1741," and "it may not be uninteresting to show what parts of the town were first chosen by the early settlers in it."

The first lot taken up, was that on which the hotel stands, known as the the Kindig House. Then the adjoining lot towards the market house.

The next lot was that on which Nes' old brewery stood, in North George street, between the rail road and the bridge, east side.

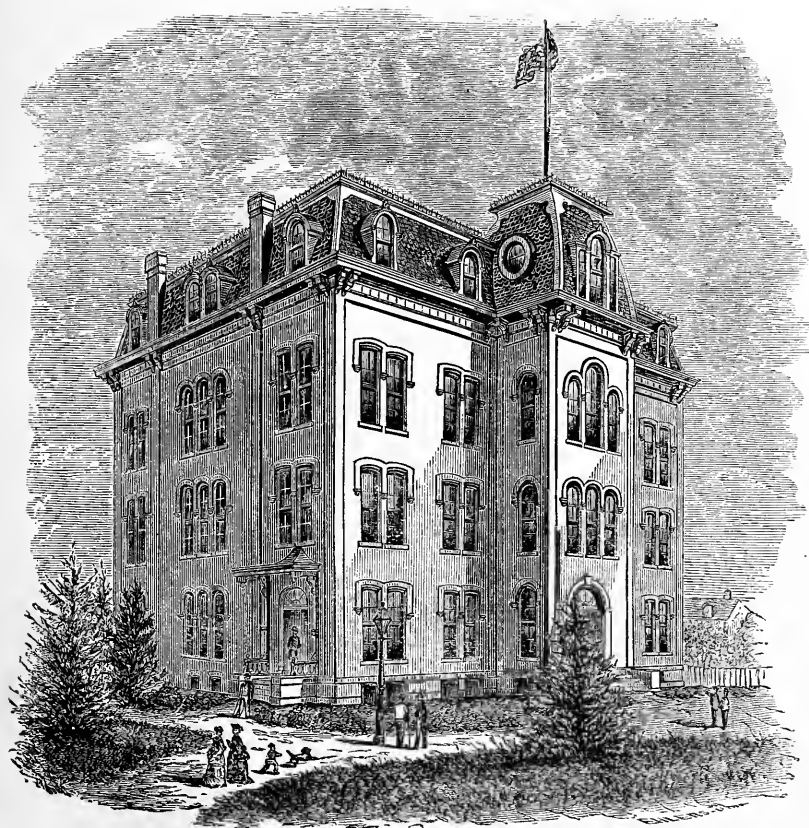
Then a lot nearly opposite the German Reformed Church, and the two lots adjoining it on the west.

Then were chosen at about the same time, the lot on which the building of H. Kraber, on East Market street now stands; that on the south-east corner of Market and Water streets; a lot at Water street, formerly John Lay, over which the rail road passed; that occupied by the York Bank, and a house opposite, once William Sayres, later William Brown; those on the south-east, south-west and north-west corners of Market and Beaver streets.

“In that month twenty three lots were taken up, and no more were taken up until the 10th and 11th of March 1746, when forty-four lots were disposed of. In 1748, and two years following, many applications were made, for York had then become a county town.” The building of the town, judged by modern progress, proceeded slowly, for we find that after the lapse of ten years, in 1751, there were but fifty lots built on. Yet many a town has been laid out on a much larger scale than York, and never got beyond fifty houses. The original area was by official survey found to be  $446\frac{1}{2}$  acres, to this, Hay’s Addition, in 1814, gave 60 acres more.

The names given to the streets indicated loyal sentiments at that period—George, King, Prince, Duke. They sound now like the loyalty of Rip Van Winkle after his prolonged sleep, during which independence had been achieved.

We learn from letters at the time that the town had the troubles incident to such settlements, as failures



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to fulfill the conditions and consequent forfeitures; different men wanting the same lot, and some taking possession of lots without leave or license. But we must not be too harsh on our predecessors, for York was then on the borders of civilization and had the experience common to frontier towns. Nor did private clashing interests disturb the whole community, for we find that the churches were not forgotten; two lots were taken by the Lutherans and one by the German Reformed congregations. The first church built in York was the Lutheran in 1744, and the German Reformed two years later.

The History of York County says: "At about this period, York must have been a most desert place, very unlike what she now is in the "splendor of her domes," and the "richness of her profusion."— Within the very limits of York, the proprietaries' timber was cut down in large quantities for burning brick and lime. Yet with its first rude dwellings, some of them, perhaps, miserable, the town must have been picturesquely built in the woods, with the Codorus in its virgin beauty flowing gently around the occupied portion. It was destined soon to become a shiretown.

The new County. The people west of the Susquehanna asked for a new county on account of the great hardships they laid under by being at so great distance from where the courts of justice were held, and also because idle and dissolute persons, who resorted to the remote parts of the province, and committed thefts and abuses, frequently found means

of making their escape, by reason of the great distance from the court to prison.

We cannot suppose that the result of the holy experiment of William Penn was to make all men in the province good, when such rogues abounded; but to enquire whence they came? is to ask the unanswerable question, whence the origin of evil?

We know that with true freeman's confidence in law and its administration under their own cognizance, our people were satisfied that the establishment of a court of justice, at York, would afford sufficient remedy for the evils of which they complained. This was in the year 1749; and that must have been a great day for York and York County, when the first court of quarter sessions of the peace was held before John Day, Esquire, and his associate justices, on the 31st day of October, in the 23rd year of his majesty George II. On the following day was held the first orphans' court before the same justices. A court of common pleas was organized at the same time, and the first suit was brought to January Term 1750.

The offices of prothonotary, clerk of the courts, register of wills and recorder of deeds, were vested in George Stephenson, deputy surveyor, a man who became active in the affairs of the county, and was one of its sub-lieutenants during the revolutionary war.

Under the Quaker regime the county courts were not held by lawyers, but by justices of the peace; and hence when under later forms of government, law judges as presidents were placed upon the bench,

two citizens, not learned in the law, were placed by his side to protect, we presume, the liberties of the people, some of whom, in the early days of the commonwealth, were not slow to assert their equality of prerogative in the administration of the law; as in the case of Judge Addison, who was impeached for denying this privilege to his lay brother on the bench. The judges of the supreme court were lawyers, who went the circuit, holding *nisi prius* courts for civil pleas in the several counties.

Our people in those days had exaggerated ideas of liberty, which all beginners in the enjoyment of political freedom are apt to display. The first election for sheriff of the new county was the scene of a most notable riot. A war of races between the Germans and the Irish. Richard McAlister, was the favorite of the Germans, as candidate for sheriff, and Hance, commonly called Hans Hamilton, of the Irish, which gave the appearance of an anomaly, a German Mac and an Irish Hans, as leaders of the contest. The polls were at the public house, built of logs, and not quite finished; through an opening between the logs at one end of the house the tickets were received.— This first public house in York was kept by Adam Miller, for which a license was granted at November sessions, 1742, by the Court of Lancaster county. It was in the north-west corner of the Centre square and was afterwards kept by Baltzer Spangler.

The Irish took possession of the polls, determined that none but their friends should vote. A fight ensued, resulting in a German victory and the election

of McAlister. But by one of those political artifices, in vogue then as now, Hans Hamilton was commissioned sheriff, by Lieut. Governor Hamilton, for one year. Hans must have belonged to the ring. This first exercise of the right of suffrage in York county was a vigorous instance of the appreciation of her citizens of that inestimable right. At the next election, in October, 1750, a large party of Germans drove away the people, knocking down the sheriff—the coroner leading the party. Investigation showed that the sheriff was to blame. There were other occasional election disturbances afterwards requiring official correction, but not worse, perhaps, than some that occur in our day.

The candidates just named, both became men of distinction. Hans Hamilton was a brave officer in the French and Indian war, was an associate judge of the common pleas for many years, and a very active and patriotic citizen at the time of the Revolution.—As was also Richard McAlister, who was Lieutenant of the county during the Revolutionary war, commissioned as such by the provincial council, and who with Thomas Hartley, was a member of the council of censors under the constitution of 1794.

Yorktown having thus been settled, and the county established, their progress was to some extent still interrupted by the border troubles. For the purpose of allaying these, by the order of his Majesty George II, temporary limits were fixed, and a line known as the "The Temporary Line" was run between the provinces of Pennsylva-

The  
Temporary  
Line.



nia and Maryland, in the year 1739. This line was a short distance above the present state line ; its exact locality cannot now be ascertained. The troubles in the eastern portion of the county were ended. But in the western part, in and around Digges' choice, where settlements had been first made by Marylanders ; and also settlements under Pennsylvania claims; the confusion became worse, and much bitterness of feeling existed for some years.

A remarkable trial took place at York on the 30th of October, 1752. A case of homicide resulting from a quarrel concerning the title to lands under a Maryland grant. The authorities of Maryland demanded the delivery of the prisoner to them for trial, which was refused by Pennsylvania. At the trial it was proved that the grant was north of the temporary line, in violation of the royal order, and the evidence showing that the killing was perhaps accidental, the prisoner was acquitted. The victim of this last border tragedy was Dudley Digges, a son of John Digges, the original patentee of "Digges' choice."

The citizens of that section of country did not know to which province they belonged. It is said that some refused payment of taxes to either, and yet had the choice of the courts of either province to sue in or appeal for protection of person and property. Under the royal order allegiance was due to the province from which the title was received.

Commissioners were appointed on the part of each province in 1763, who fixed the boundary line and settled the prolonged and painful controversy. Two

Mason and Dixon's Line. distinguished mathematicians, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, brought peace to a disturbed country by running that ever memorable line, celebrated in subsequent history as Mason's and Dixon's line. It was run in the winter of 1767-1768, in latitude  $39^{\circ} 43' 18''$ . In determining which, the official reports say, much science and many intricate mathematical problems were involved. The line was marked by stones one mile apart, and on every fifth mile stone was graven the arms of the proprietaries upon the sides facing their respective territories.

The troubles arising from conflicting titles were not entirely settled when the town of Hanover was laid out by Richard McAlister in 1764. He divided his farm into lots for that purpose; and it is said his project met with some ridicule, for it was a wilderness around. The handsome and substantial borough now built there, of 3000 inhabitants, would astonish the primitive settlers. The house of Richard McAlister, now cased in brick, is still pointed out, as is also the first house, a log one, built on one of his lots. The early history of Hanover is remarkable by reason of its having become a "city of refuge."—Its site was a part of Digges' choice, and consequently its settlers owed allegiance to Maryland. "If the sheriff of York county could catch the delinquent one half mile out of town in a north-western direction, then he might legally make him his prisoner under the authority of the courts of the county." On one occasion, it is related, that robbers who had broken

into the store of its founder, Richard McAlister, were seized and taken to York; but the sheriff of York county refused to receive them, saying, "You of Hanover wish to be independent, therefore, punish your villains yourselves."

The place also seems to have been the German centre in the contests with the Irish, who occupied principally those townships which afterwards were formed into Adams county.

Hanover was laid out within the township of Heidelberg, one of the original townships of the county. When the county of York was formed, we find that notwithstanding the large proportion of German settlers, the townships had, except in two or three instances, pronounced English names; such as Dover, Manchester, Shrewsbury, Hellam, Chanceford, Newberry, Warrington. The townships were formed on the petition of the inhabitants as needs seemed to require; but how the names were assigned we do not know. Monaghan is an Irish name. Codorus is Indian, from the stream, said to have been originally, Cadwarese. But there were two names of townships very suggestive of the original home of the German occupants of the soil—Heidelberg and Manheim.

The Palatinate upon the Rhine, and places adjacent, furnished the ancestors of many citizens of York county, and of those who now constitute some of the principal families in wealth and culture. Mannheim was the capital of the Rhenish Palatinate; a few miles distant from it the ancient and beautiful

city of Heidelberg. Both had experienced the worst calamities of fire and sword, and their names were endeared to the palatines who fled to our shore for the sake of religious liberty. Heidelberg is celebrated at this day, for its university, perhaps, the most famous in the world.

The Palatines formed no inconsiderable part of that great body of men planted on the American soil, who would one day assert and maintain the principles of civil and religious liberty. The German reformers, fleeing from persecution, with the Huguenots, the Puritans and the Quakers, all sought freedom of conscience in new homes; but the germs of civil liberty were also growing on this continent into a wide spreading tree. The common law and customs of England had been implanted here, and the people were prepared to take part in public affairs and mould them for the common good.

Hitherto your attention has been directed to such local matters in the history of the county as French War. serve to illustrate its early settlement and progress; but at the period to which we have now arrived events had occurred deeply affecting all the people of the American colonies. A war between France and England for the possession of the Ohio Valley had been hotly contested. A terrible lesson was administered to the British troops led by General Braddock to the forfeit of his life, on the 9th of July 1755; bringing out into the conspicuous view of all America, the calm intrepidity and clear judgment of the destined leader of her armies, in the person of

Colonel George Washington, of Virginia.

The terrors of that war had approached the confines of the county of York. The dwellers along the Yellow Breeches creek and in the Carroll district, were driven from their homes; in some instances experienced the cruelties of savage warfare—the fire brand, the tomahawk, the scalping knife, and the massacre. It was reported that the enemy were within a day's march of York. The people from all parts of the county fled towards the river settlements; the women and children were removed from Wright's Ferry across the river. Hans Hamilton marched with sixty men to Cumberland county; others followed, and he had two hundred men under his command. Associated militia companies were formed at home, and some participated in the fighting, and suffered severely in killed and wounded.

The earl of Loudoun, placed in military command of America with a commission establishing a power superior to that of the governors, by his conduct exasperated the colonies and widened the breach with the mother country. Some of his troops were quartered here in York, occasioning some apprehension, on account of complaints made in other places where the British soldiers were billeted on the citizens, but no harm was done. After he was recalled for inefficiency, and General Abercrombie was placed in command, the policy of the British government was changed. Colonial troops had hitherto been treated with disdain, but the colonies now were invited by the prime minister, the elder Pitt, to raise men; Pennsylvania and Vir-

ginia, especially, for the conquest of the west. Brilliant officers were sent over, Howe and Wolfe and Forbes, who with such men as Washington and Armstrong among the continentals, accomplished great results. With the latter were companies raised in York. Four companies of York county militia, part of twenty-seven hundred Pennsylvania militia, marched under General Forbes, and took part in the capture of Fort Duquesne, afterwards called Fort Pitt, now Pittsburgh, after the distinguished friend of America, and secured the Ohio Valley to the English.

America had by this time asserted her claim of legislative independence of England, and those measures had been proposed in Parliament which hastened on the overthrow of the whole colonial system of government. There was a union of the colonies for their own protection against the French, the origin of that more permanent union which resulted in the formation of the American Government. William Penn had, in 1697, proposed an annual congress of all the provinces with power to regulate commerce, and Benjamin Franklin, in 1765, revived the great idea, when the British cabinet had determined on taxing America. Pennsylvania was taking its part in these events. The people were already masters of the situation here. The Lieut. Governor named the Judges not the proprietaries. Sheriffs and coroners were chosen by the people, and members of the General Assembly were elected by them, who were annually responsible to their constituents.

York was not idle in these times. A class of men appeared who played their parts nobly in the history of the great struggle for liberty, who taught the people, or rather guided them, for they already held a power not to be relinquished. Among these

Smith, was a man who had come to reside here,  
 Hartley, whose biography is intimately connected  
 Miller,  
 Clark, with her history—James Smith, for some time the only practising attorney in York. We can imagine how the beauty of the situation of Yorktown brought families to it, and young men of intelligence and enterprise seeking new places for the exercise of their talents. Among such was Thomas Hartley, who came to York from Reading at the age of eighteen years, commenced the study of the law under Samuel Johnston, and was admitted to the bar in 1769. For some time he and Smith were the only practising lawyers in the county, Mr. Johnston being then, and for some years after, prothonotary. In this last mentioned year, Henry Miller moved to York from Reading, and was also student at law under Mr. Johnston; and soon after came another law student of his from Lancaster, John Clark. With such young men, and with families of the kind that we know lived in York and vicinity, there was no lack of society here. There has been a slight attempt to portray the private and social life of York just previous to the Revolutionary war.

Graydon in his "Memoirs" tells us, that being a student at law, to enable him to pursue his studies without interruption, his uncle advised his spending

the approaching summer in Yorktown. Mr. Samuel Johnston, the prothonotary, was a particular friend, who had been in the practice of the law and had a very good library; and tendered his books and services, and complimented him with a dinner. "It was in the spring of 1773 that I was transferred to this pleasant and flourishing village." \* \* "There were several young men in the town, whose company served to relieve the dreariness of my solitude; for such it was compared with the scene from which I had removed. These, no doubt, Hartley and Clark and Miller, for the most part, (1811) are yet living generally known and respected. There was also in the place an oddity, who, tho' not to be classed with its young men, I sometimes fell in with. This was Mr. James Smith, the lawyer, then in considerable practice. He was probably between forty and fifty years of age, fond of his bottle, and young company, and possessed of an original species of drollery."

He then describes with some minuteness some of the peculiarities of Mr. Smith in the way of jokes. One in particular practised upon Judge Steadman, of Philadelphia, a man of reading and erudition, who in a full display of his historical knowledge was set raving by a monstrous anachronism. "Don't you remember, Mr. Steadman, that terrible bloody battle which Alexander the great fought with the Russians at the Straits of Babelmandel?" "What, sir!" said Steadman, repeating with the most ineffable contempt, "which Alexander the great fought with the Russians! Where, mon, did you get your chronology?" "I think



you will find it recorded, Mr. Steadman, in Thucydides or Herodotus." "On another occasion, being asked for his authority for an enormous assertion, in which both space and time were fairly annihilated, with unshaken gravity he replied, "I am pretty sure I have seen an account of it, Mr. Steadman, in a High Dutch Almanac printed at Aleepo, his drawling way of pronouncing Aleppo." Every one laughed, says Graydon; but the Judge who resided in Philadelphia, and was ignorant of Smith's character in this particular, thought him the object of the laughter, so all parties were pleased.

James Smith was about ten years of age when he came from Ireland with his father, who settled west of the Susquehanna in what is now York county. On attaining manhood he studied law in Lancaster, then the county seat, and settled in York, about the year 1760. He was chosen delegate to the state convention in 1774, "on the propriety and expediency of abstaining from the importation of goods from England." He was a member of the provincial council of 1775, and of the convention that formed the first constitution of Pennsylvania in 1776. While a member of that body he was chosen by it a member of the Continental Congress from Pennsylvania; taking his seat in time to sign the Declaration of Independence. This he was ready to do, having already expressed himself, at York and in the constitutional convention, in papers drawn by him, in language and sentiments, similar almost in words to the great article itself.

We can imagine the young men, Hartley and Miller and Clark, in deep and earnest converse with their older friend, on the state of the colonies, and of the threatened encroachments of Great Britain on their rights. As day after day brought the news of new aggressions, how indignant they would become! How the news of the stamp act must have aroused them, and how they must have determined to guide the public opinion of their community in defence of liberty!

It would seem that the expression of political sentiments in public was not unusual in the rural districts of Pennsylvania. The public meeting and the passing of resolutions were as common then as they are to-day.

So when the news of the bold act of the Bostonians in throwing the tea overboard in Boston Harbor reached here, the exultation and sympathy of the men of York expressed itself instantly in public meetings. Not in words only, but money was raised and provisions forwarded to their brethren of Massachusetts Bay, accompanied with a patriotic and sympathizing letter addressed to John Hancock and Thomas Cushing, the Boston committee. A meeting of the inhabitants of the county was called for the 4th of July, 1774, "to enter into such resolves as may be for the public good, and tend to restore the liberties of British America."

"As early as December, 1774, a company was formed in the town of York, the object of which was to make soldiers who would be well disciplined for battle in case the disaffection then exist-

Companies  
Formed.

ing towards England should proceed to open hostilities. The officers of this company were James Smith, captain, Thomas Hartly, firstlieutenant, David Green, and Henry Miller, ensign." This was the first militia company organized in Pennsylvania in opposition to the forces of Great Britain. The original manuscript of the constitution of a company entitled "the Independent Light Infantry company belonging to the first battalion of York county," with the signatures of all the officers and privates, is said to be still preserved. John Hay, a member of the convention which formed the first constitution of the state in 1776, was the first lieutenant of this company. A sword carried by him in the war is in the possession of a descendant of his residing in York. The names of all those who took part in the formation of companies cannot now be mentioned, but among the officers are some names familiar to us, Captains Deitch, Hahn and Bailey, Lieutenants Spangler, Billmyer and Lau-man and ensigns Luke Rouse and Jacob Barnitz.

A company of riflemen was required to be raised by resolution of Congress. The spirit of the people was such that there was no trouble in recruiting it.—The officers were Captain Michael Doudel, Lieutenants Henry Miller, John Dill and John Watson.—The number of men was beyond the number fixed for the county, but Gen. Gates thought it improper to discharge any and all were sent. This company of riflemen was the first that marched from Pennsylvania to Boston. They left here July 1, 1775. We read of late in a sketch by J. Barnitz Bacon, in his

“Reminiscences of New York in the Olden Time,” the following :

“Presently, more drums—from the direction of Dey street, this time. It must be the General! No! it was only a rifle company from Pennsylvania on their way to Boston. Captain Doudel’s company from Yorktown, with Lieutenant Henry Miller in command—the first company from west of the Hudson—belonging to Colonel Thompson’s Regiment, afterwards Hand’s, and bearing the first commission issued by Congress after Washington’s. Yorktown offered so many men, that the young Lieutenant—he was only twenty-four—chalked a very small nose on a barn-door. “I’ll take only the men that can hit that nose at one hundred and fifty yards!” said he. “Take care of your nose, General Gage!” said the newspapers at the time. Both Yorktown and Lieutenant Miller afterwards became noted in Revolutionary history. A hundred rifles filled his ranks as they, too, marched on to Kingsbridge.”

It is impossible to convey any adequate idea, in a hasty sketch, of the alacrity and enthusiasm with which company after company was formed as they were called for. The counties of York and Cumberland were required to raise four companies for the forming of a regiment. It was enlisted for fifteen months and formed the 11th of the Pennsylvania line, with Thomas Hartley as Colonel. A rifle company commanded by Captain William McPherson marched to Philadelphia and was attached to Colonel Miles’ rifle regiment.

Five battalions of York county militia marched to New Jersey. Out of these five two became battal-

The  
Flying  
Camp

ions of the Flying Camp, to which York county furnished nearly one thousand men. Col. Henry Schlegel, of York county, with two other officers, was chosen to go to New Jersey to form the Flying Camp; which was a special corps established by resolution of Congress, consisting of three brigades. The Brigadier General of the first brigade was James Ewing of York county. His parents had settled in Hellam township. He is said to have been a lieutenant in Gen. Braddock's army, and to have been present at the disastrous slaughter. Gen. Ewing and his brigade are spoken of in high terms by General Washington in his despatches. The first regiment of his brigade was commanded by Colonel Swope, of York county. Of the second regiment the major was John Clark. Of him letters from Generals Washington and Greene and others speak as standing "very high in the confidence and esteem of the American commander in chief. He was employed during the war, in duties for which no one would have been selected who was not deemed true as steel." Another regiment of the Flying Camp was commanded by Colonel Robert McPherson. A son of his, Lieutenant William McPherson, was taken prisoner at the battle of Long Island. Probably the same mentioned already, as captain of a rifle company, attached to Colonel Miles' regiment, which was prominent in that battle. The McPhersons were from that part of the county afterwards formed into Adams county. The regiment of Colonel Swope suffered as severely as any during the war. The company of Captain Graeff

was taken at the battle of Long Island, and but eighteen of the men returned to join the regiment.

This regiment suffered most at Fort Washington on the Hudson. Fourteen of its officers were taken at that place; among them captains Stake, Smyser and Dritt. The company of captain Stake, the fourth company under Colonel Swope consisted, it is said, "mostly of spirited and high minded young men from the town of York and vicinity." Two York county men were wounded at Fort Washington, Captain McCarter from the neighborhood of Hanover, twenty two-years of age, who died from the effects of his wound; and Ensign Jacob Barnitz of Yorktown, who was made a prisoner, but who survived his wounds and returned home.

Our soldiers after these disasters were with General Washington in his retreat across New Jersey. We do not lose sight of our first volunteers, or their galling commander, now of higher rank.

General Wilkinson in his memoirs says: "Major <sup>York</sup> Miller of Hand's Riflemen, was ordered by <sup>Soldiers.</sup> General Washington to check the rapid movement of the enemy in pursuit of the American army, while retreating across the state of New Jersey. The order was so well executed, and the advance of a powerful enemy so embarrassed, that the American troops which afterward gained the independence of the country were preserved from an overthrow which would have proved the grave of our liberties."

In all of the battles from the commencement of the war, through the reverses and retreat of the American

army at this period, the soldiers from the county of York fought bravely and suffered severely. The American army appeared to be in a critical position, and dismay and despondency seemed to pervade the country. The following letter shows the spirit that existed here, where enlistments were somewhat suspended on account of the dark aspect of affairs. It is from the committee of York County to the committee of safety in Philadelphia, dated December 31, 1776:

“In these times of Difficulty, several Gentlemen have exerted themselves much in the Grand Cause. Several Militia Companys have marched, more will march from this County, so as in the whole to compose at least a pretty good Battalion.

The Gentlemen who deserve most from the publick are, David Jameson, Hugh Denwoody, Charles Lukens, and Mr. George Eichelberger. They have been exceedingly useful. As most of the Companys who marched have chosen their officers, pro Tempore, an arrangement will be necessary, as to Field Officers. We propose David Jameson Col., Hugh Denwoody, Lt. Colonel, Charles Lukens, Major and George Eichelberger, Quarter Master of the York County Militia, who now march; It will be doing Justice to merit, to make the appointm't, and we make, no Doubt, will be done by your Board.

We congratulate you on the Success of the American Arms at Trenton.”

David Jameson, mentioned in this letter, was a surgeon by profession, and had held a captain's commission in the French and Indian war, where he had seen arduous service. He was an active participant in the public affairs of the county, and letters of his

appear in the archives of Pennsylvania. He had come from Scotland, about the year 1740, in company with a friend, also a young surgeon, Dr. Hugh Mercer, afterwards renowned as General Mercer, of the continental army, who fell at Princeton. Instances, among many others, of that enterprise which induced young men of the old world to seek homes in this new land.

General Mercer commanded the flying camp to which so many of the York county soldiers were attached. He was a warm friend of Washington and was by his side in the retreat through New Jersey.—“What think you,” said Washington to him, “if we should retreat to the back parts of Pennsylvania, would the Pennsylvanians support us?” But occasion did not require him to try the back parts of Pennsylvania, which would have included York county, on the way to Virginia, and across the Alleghanies, where Washington contemplated retreat.

On Christmas night, 1776, that ever memorable crossing of the Delaware was accomplished, which surprised and routed the British and Hessians at Trenton. The success referred to in the letter just quoted; a success which revived the hopes of the country. Soldiers from York county were there, and were also in the subsequent battles of Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth.

The defeat of the American army at Brandywine was followed by the occupation of Philadelphia by Lord Howe, on the 26th of September, 1777. Warned of the danger in time, Congress

The  
Continental  
Congress.



adjourned from Philadelphia to Lancaster, and not feeling safe there, adjourned to York, in order that the Susquehanna should flow between them and the enemy. The continental congress met in the old court house, on the 30th of September, 1777, and continued in session here until the 27th of June, 1778.

While congress was in session here, the news of the victory of General Stark, at Bennington, followed by the still more glorious news of the surrender of Burgoyne to Gates, at Saratoga, was received, and contrasted strongly with the disastrous condition of the army under Washington, after the well concerted but unsuccessful attack upon the enemy's army at Germantown. Certain generals of the army and members of congress are supposed to have entered into a design, at this time, to displace Washington and put in command General Gates who was covered with glory and was the theme of eulogium on account of his recent triumphs, while Washington had gone into winter quarters at Valley Forge, with an army reduced, scant of provisions, with clothing worn out—so badly off for shoes that the footsteps of the men were tracked with blood.

Appointed president of the Board of War, General  
Horatio Gates. Gates came to York in January, 1778, where ovations were paid to him as the conqueror of Burgoyne. A man of fine presence, courteous manners and social disposition, he readily won his way to popularity. The name of Horatio Gates found a place in families and still lingers here.

The account of the occurrences at York, at this period, are related by General Wilkinson. A man not unknown to fame, having become subsequently, by seniority, commander in chief of the army of the United States; but his fame somewhat tarnished by suspected complicity in the renowned conspiracy of Aaron Burr. At the time in question, he was a major of the line, a member of General Gates' staff as adjutant general. He was sent by Gates to York, to bring to Congress the official report of the surrender of General Burgoyne and of the terms of the capitulation. He did not lay the documents before congress until eighteen days after the surrender, when it was already known as well as the articles of the treaty. So that when it was proposed to vote him a sword, Dr. Witherspoon said: "I think ye'll better gie the lad *a pair of spurs*." His delay is explained by himself in his memoirs. Congress passed a vote of thanks to Generals Gates and Stark and Arnold, directed that a gold medal be struck and presented to General Gates, and made Wilkinson a brigadier general by brevet.

One part of the alleged scheme was to detach La Fayette from Washington, by appointing him La Fayette. to the command of an expedition for the invasion of Canada. LaFayette came to Yorktown, where Gates was holding what has been styled his court. A feast was given in his honor, and his reception was cordial. The faith and devotion of the gallant young French nobleman never faltered towards the man whom he so loved and honored. Ac-

According to the custom of the day toasts were given, and he gave as his: "The commander-in-chief of the American armies." It is said that it was received without cheering.

While Colonel Wilkinson was on his way to York, he dined at Reading, with Lord Stirling and his staff. Being in a convivial mood he told the aid-de-camp of his lordship what had been written by General Conway to General Gates in disparagement of General Washington. Lord Stirling communicated this to Washington, who let the parties know that he knew it, which occasioned great consternation among his enemies. Wilkinson being in fault became very sensitive. He considered his honor wounded by Gates, and by Lord Stirling, from both of whom he determined to demand satisfaction. The affair with Gates as it occurred here in our town is worth relating as a matter of curious information. According to the account of Wilkinson, as given by himself, he came to York, purposely arriving in the twilight to escape observation, and found a willing friend to convey his challenge to Gates. The meeting was fixed at eight o'clock, in the morning, with pistols. The place was in the rear of the Episcopal church. At the appointed time, Wilkinson and his second, having put their arms in order, were about to sally forth, when the second of the General met them and informed Wilkinson that Gates desired to speak with him. He found Gates unarmed and alone, who disavowed any intention of injuring him, and Wilkinson's wounded honor was satisfied. The whole plot

thus ended in personal questions of offended honor.

It appeared by after developements that the movement, whatever it was, was not formidable ; and there was no sufficient evidence to prove any concerted plan. The censure of Washington's plans and policy, and the opportune successes of Gates, placed the latter in the light of a supposed rival for the command of the army. The calmness and self command of Washington never failed him ; and when the disastrous loss of the battle of Camden called forth his personal sympathy, Washington and Gates again became friends.

The congress sat with closed doors, and here they resumed the memorable debate on the first plan of union of the colonies and on the 15th of November, 1777, adopted the Articles of Confederation. They disseminated news to the public by means of a press brought from Philadelphia, on which, also, they printed large quantities of continental money, some of which is said to have been found concealed here after the war was over. Resolutions were passed in recognition of the brave foreigners of distinction who aided our cause. Lafayette was recommended to the command of a division. A resolution of thanks was voted to Baron Steuben for his zeal in the cause of America, and Count Pulaski was authorized to raise an independent corps of horse and foot; the horse to be armed with lances ; and some of it was recruited here. John Hancock resigned his position as president of the continental congress, whilst holding its session here, which occurred on

the 31st of October, 1777, having filled the office since May 24th, 1775; and Henry Laurens was elected in his place. Matthew Clarkson and John Clark were, on the 6th of January, 1778, appointed auditors of the army under the command of General Washington.

On the 11th of June, 1778, Philip Livingston, a delegate from the State of New York, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, died while here, and was buried in the burying ground of the German Reformed church, where a monument of white marble, surmounted by an urn, was erected to his memory, with this inscription:

Sacred

To the memory of the Honorable

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,

who died June 12, 1778,

Aged 63 years,

while attending the Congress

of the United States, at York

Town, Penna., as a Delegate from

the State of New York.

Eminently distinguished for  
his talents and rectitude, he deservedly

enjoyed the confidence of his

country, and the love and veneration

of his friends and children.

This monument, erected by

his grandson,

Stephen Van Rensselaer.

James Smith lived to a good old age, having died

in the year 1806. He was buried in the Presbyterian church yard, where his tomb stone is readily discovered with this simple inscription :

JAMES SMITH,  
One of the Signers of the  
Declaration of Independence,  
Died July 11th, 1806,  
Aged 93 years.

Livingston's grave and his have recently been honored by a demonstration worthy of the proud distinction to which they are entitled by reason of the immortal document to which their names are appended, and worthy of those representatives of the rising generation, who placed the floral tributes upon their tombs.

The Old Court House which became famous on account of the session within its walls of the Continental Congress, was built in the centre square in 1756. In the steeple of that old court house was hung the bell, which, according to the "History of York county," came as a present from Queen Caroline of England, for the Episcopal church in York, about the year 1774. But Caroline, wife of George II of England, died in 1737. The generous donor was, in all probability, Caroline Matilda, sister of George III, Queen of Denmark, being the wife of Christian VII, a lady of unhappy history, who was imprisoned in 1772, and spent the last three years of her life in the Castle of Zell, Hanover, where she distributed charities. She died in 1775.

That bell for many years rung out the time for the

service of the Episcopal church, as well as for the meetings of the court. Were that old court house standing now, it would be considered an act of vandalism to tear it down. That was done in September, 1841. As was remarked at the time, "not one brick should be touched, nor should the structure be removed one inch from its site, for the time would come when pilgrimages would be made to those buildings so intimately associated with the toils and triumphs of the Revolution—that they would become the Meccas of Freedom, where her sons would congregate to rekindle in their bosoms the sacred flame of gratitude to the deliverers of their country, and of devotion to those principles which they had defended."

On one side of the old court house was erected a building known as the state house, in which were the county offices, and what we have not now, a county miscellaneous library, consisting of a well selected collection of books which disappeared with the building. On the other side was a market house of the antique pattern. The clock which was on the old court house was put on the Lutheran church steeple, and the figure of a soldier with drawn sword, which surmounted the cupola, was placed on the Laurel engine house; these relics are still on these places.

As the war progressed the enthusiasm at home to some extent abated, especially as the militia were constantly required for service. The young and ardent blood is always first to go forth and the stay at-homes are proud of them. But the first recruits are not enough to carry through a prolonged war, and

calls upon the militia must be answered. If they do not respond, a draft is ordered. So it was here, and some of the rural districts were offended. Lieutenant McAlister hesitated to enforce a draft, and tendered his resignation more than once. At one time there was complaint of "the long tailed oath" required of absolute renunciation of all-giance to all foreign potentates. By the exertions of McAlister and the sub-lieutenants the quotas were filled. The men of York performed their part well at home and on the battle field during the remaining trying years of the war, which lingered on with its terrible hardships to the American soldiers, with alternate victory and defeat, in ever memorable battles, until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General Washington, at Yorktown, Virginia, on the 19th of October, 1781, caused hostilities to cease, producing universal joy. This news was received at York with great rejoicings, business was suspended, bells were rung, and a great bonfire built.

England did not carry on the war for the subjugation of the American colonies altogether with Hessians. her own soldiers, but employed mercenaries, known to us as Hessians. The profession of a soldier has always been held honorable and is none the less so because he receives pay. He is under obligation to give his life, if need be, to the government that employs him, and is authorized by the law of nations to take life in open war. It is not the pay of the individual soldier that makes him a mercenary; it is the hire of his services by his sovereign to another.



er potentate. The price of such hire in the case of the Hessians who were engaged to fight our people was enormous. The landgrave of Hesse-Cassel kept up a splendid court on the price he received from the British government, some fifteen millions of dollars, for the hire of twenty thousand soldiers and upwards.

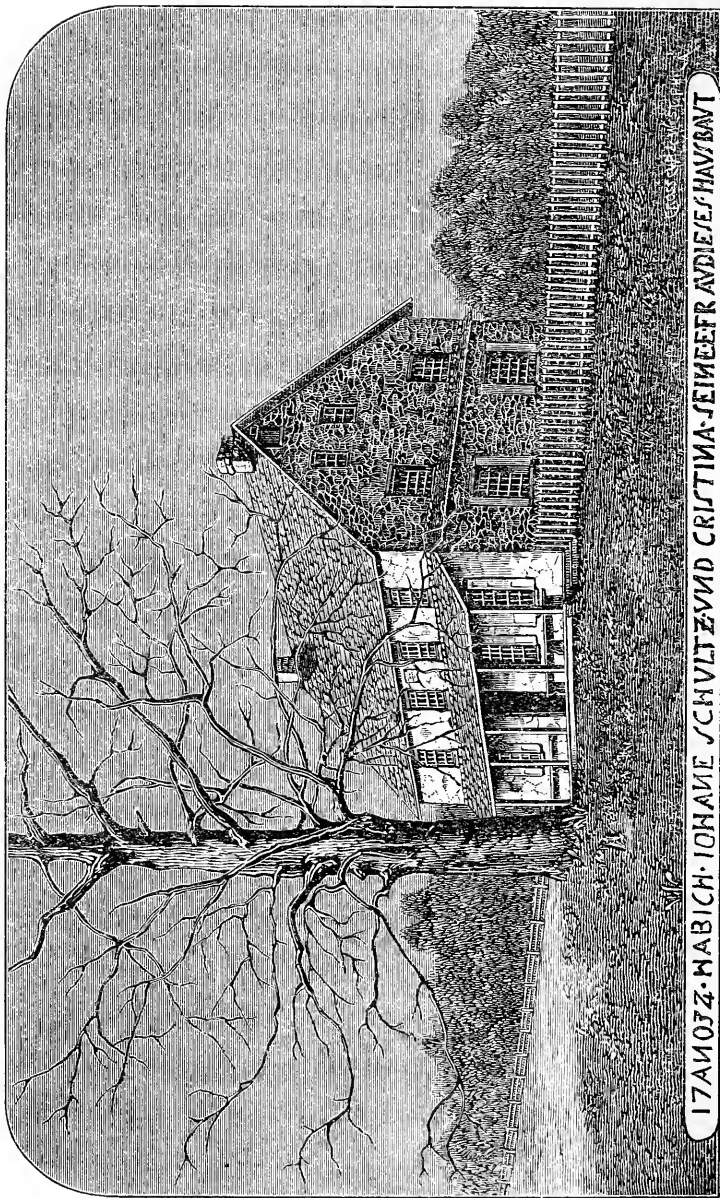
From time to time during the war large numbers of prisoners, principally Hessians, were brought to York, under the escort of the militia. In individual instances, by permission of the council of safety or the board of war, prisoners were discharged on parole and allowed to take up a residence from choice; and some Hessians settled in York county.

By the convention made at the surrender of Burgoyne to Gates, several thousand prisoners fell into the hands of the Americans, called the "convention prisoners." The militia of the several counties, Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster and York, were ordered to escort them through the limits of each county; the York county militia being ordered to meet them at Wright's Ferry. But by subsequent arrangements these prisoners passed, under escort of continental troops, through York and Hanover to Frederick, Maryland. Wherever the Hessian prisoners passed, the people thronged to see these terrible beings, and they were hooted as hirelings to the trade of blood. Some of them were men of education and intelligence, who published accounts of their experience in the American war. They tell in particular of the scoldings they received from the women for coming to rob them of their liberty. General

Washington had to cause notices to be put up through the country that they "were innocent of the war and had joined in it not of free will, but through compulsion."

In 1781, an act of Congress directed that the British convention prisoners in Maryland and Virginia be removed to Yorktown, Pennsylvania, from fear of rescue by Cornwallis, and the York county militia were ordered out to guard them. It appears by a letter from President Reed to William Scott, lieutenant of this county, June 28, 1781, that these prisoners were ordered to be placed in huts near York. Four and a half miles east of town in Windsor township, about twenty acres of woodland were cleared and cultivated by them, surrounded by a picket fence, fifteen feet high. The huts were mostly of stone. Some of the timber of the fence and stones of the huts yet remain. While there a plague of some kind broke out among them, and a large number, computed by some at a thousand of them, died. Their graves are still visible marked with stones. Until within some thirty years past, a scaffold, consisting of two trees cut off, with a cross piece, was standing there. The story told is, that one night a party, supposed to be marauders, came to the house of Wm. Morgan, (one of the family of that name said to have been the only English one that settled in Kreutz creek valley,) and called for something to eat. Morgan perceiving that they were Hessians, shut the door on them; whereupon they fired through the door, wounding him and then left. A neighbor rode to camp and gave information of





17AM07Z-NABICH-IONAHE SCHULTZEMD CRISTINA-SEIMEEFRADIESE/HAVSBANT

THE GLATZ PROPERTY, SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP.

the occurrence to the officer in charge. The roll being called it was readily found out who were missing; and on the return of the party they were court martialed and hung.

Near the place where these prisoners were huted, is an old stone house, built by John Shultz and wife, in 1734, as appears upon the tablet built in it, as follows :

17AN034.

HABICH. IOHNE SCH

VLTZ. VND

CRISTINA. SEINE. E.

FRAV. DIESES.

HAVS BAVT. .

This is the first stone house erected in York county, now owned by Mrs. Susan Glatz, and still occupied as a dwelling. It was a tavern, and, it is said, that the continental congress, who had crossed the Susquehanna at Wright's and at Anderson's, (now Glatz's,) Ferries, on their way to Yorktown, stopped there to water their horses. They had saddles which greatly excited the curiosity of the persons gathered there, such things being then unknown to them.

We left the town of York with fifty buildings in the year 1751, and find toward the close of the Borough of York. war, in 1780, that there were two hundred and ninety houses built, hence we may estimate the population of the town at that period, at a thousand inhabitants. It was increasing rapidly in size. At the commencement of the new century the popula-

tion was two thousand five hundred; so that at the time of its incorporation into a borough, on the 24th of September, 1787, the number of inhabitants must have been little short of two thousand.

The title of the corporation was the "The Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Borough of York," which it still retains, and is well styled "ye ancient Borough of York." Henry Miller was the first chief burgess, and James Smith was one of the assistant burgesses.

In the meantime several other churches had been Churches, erected, in addition to the Lutheran and German Reformed already mentioned. A Moravian church had been built as early as 1756. A Roman Catholic church about 1779. The Protestant Episcopal church of St. John was founded in 1769. The first church edifice was finished before the commencement of the revolutionary war, during which no service was held in it; but it was used for some time as an arsenal. Some years afterwards, in 1810, when the church was being remodeled, on removing the pulpit several pounds of powder were found concealed under it. As this was known as the English church, and the rector in charge was a missionary from England, whose sentiments were not in accord with the people, their enmity was excited; the rector Reverend Daniel Batwell, was thrown into prison, and the powder is supposed to have been put there with hostile intentions against him. In this church edifice the Presbyterian congregation worshipped for some years, in common with the members of the church of England. The first Presbyter-

ian church was built about the year 1789. At this time the first Methodist preacher had visited here, and that congregation had a place of public worship.

In 1777 Conrad Leatherman obtained a lot in the town of York, which he sold on the 28th of February, 1785, to the Protestant Episcopal church of St. John. Through the personal efforts of Rev. John Campbell, the rector, there were collected about five thousand dollars in Pennsylvania and neighboring states, towards building an academy on the lot, and a parsonage house on a lot adjoining. The academy was built in 1787 and instruction commenced the same year. When the Episcopal church was incorporated in 1787 the academy was attached to it. Thomas Hartley was the first president, Robert Hetrick, secretary, Henry Miller, treasurer, and among the visitors was James Smith.

The academy passed under the control of the state in 1796, when a new corporation was created by the title of the York County Academy; under the successive trustees of which this ancient and classical institution has continued to the present time, with excellent teachers in all its departments.

The establishment of a form of government for this municipality was almost contemporaneous with a much greater one, in which the citizens of York had an absorbing interest, the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, in convention, on the 17th of September, 1787. The people of York, always patriotic, showed their attach-

York  
County  
Academy.

Constitution  
of the  
U. S.

ment to that constitution by a noted demonstration, on the 4th of July 1788, about the time of its ratifications by a majority of the States of the Union. A procession was formed, in which as to day, all trades and professions were represented, and corresponding toasts were exhibited by the bearers of the flags. As an instance of which one of the best was presented by the coopers, namely: "May the new government prove a binding hoop to all the states, and never suffer them to go to staves."

Thomas Hartley was the first member of congress under the new government, and continued  
Thomas Hartley. a member to the time of his death in 1800. The house in which this distinguished citizen of York resided has but recently been demolished. The Trinity Reformed church having been erected in the rear of it, it was deemed necessary to remove the ancient building. In its day it was perhaps the finest structure in the town, with elaborate and antique carvings and mouldings, some of which, it is hoped, may be preserved, as relics of the past. Colonel Hartley was one of York's most useful and patriotic citizens. He died at the comparatively early age of fifty-two years, and was buried in the Episcopal church yard. The Reverend Dr. John Campbell delivered an eloquent and appropriate eulogy at the grave of this soldier and statesman, who reflected honor upon the community he so ably represented, both on the battle field and in the councils of the nation.

An interesting question arose under the new gov-



U. S.  
Capital  
at Wright's  
Ferry.

ernment as to the site for the capital of the United States. A strong party in Congress advocated the fixing the capital at Wright's Ferry, on the Susquehanna, where Wrightsville has since developed into a handsome borough. It had a narrow escape from becoming the capital of the country. Washington himself was in favor of it for its beauty and security. The members from New England and New York preferred it, and for many days it seemed to have a better chance than Harrisburg, Baltimore, New York, Germantown, or Philadelphia. There were earnest debates on the subject. The situation was much praised. One member remarked, not merely the soil, the water, and the "advantages of nature" were unsurpassed, but where "if honorable gentlemen were disposed to pay much attention to a dish of fish, he could assure them their table might be furnished with fine and good from the waters of the Susquehanna." It was contended that Wright had fixed his ferry at the point which would be the centre of population for ages yet to come. But Wright's Ferry lost its chance, and we too, may we not say, by what may be called the first instance of log rolling in the American congress.—The question of assuming the debts of the states was a subject that deeply affected congress and the administration. The southern members were of course for the Potomac. The Susquehanna triumphed in the House; but the senate sent back the bill with Susquehanna stricken out and Germantown inserted. At last it was arranged that the southern members

should vote for the assumption of the state debts and so carry it; and in return Alexander Hamilton the Secretary of the Treasury, agreed to induce a few northern members to change their votes on the question of the capital, and so fix it upon the Potomac near Georgetown.

Tradition tells of a visit of General Washington to York, during the period of the Revolutionary war, and places have been pointed out which are designated by the military term of his "head quarters." No record can be found to give us any information on the subject. That York was a place of sufficient importance to claim his presence here, has never been doubted by the oldest inhabitants who have transmitted to posterity the intelligence of his sojourn here for a time more or less brief. But at a later period there are those yet living who profess to have seen him. We know that he reviewed the troops assembled on his requisition, at Carlisle, in October, 1794, and it is probable that at that time he made his appearance at York, at any rate, it has been too often asserted by persons that they themselves or their parents saw him to be now doubted.

The occasion was the insurrection in the Western counties of Pennsylvania, on account of the Whiskey Insurrection excise on spirits distilled in the United States, commonly known as the Whiskey Insurrection. A regiment of militia under the command of Colonel Daniel May, and two companies of volunteers, one commanded by Captain Andrew Johnston.

Charles Barnitz, first lieutenant, and John Grier, ensign; the other a rifle company commanded by Captain James Ross, marched, with the rest of the Pennsylvania troops, to meet the insurgents, who laid down their arms and dispersed at the approach of the army. Because no blood was shed, this insurrection was spoken of in a light manner, yet fifteen thousand troops were called for by the proclamation of the president, for its suppression. The Federalists believed it to have had a deeper origin in schemes to overthrow the government; and it may be that but for the determined character of our first chief magistrate, the combination then formed against the authority of the laws would have endangered the government.

There is one noted instance of resistance to the excise tax in York county previous to this combination. In 1786, a citizen of Manchester township, having refused payment of his tax, the constable distrained a domestic animal of his and brought it to York. On the day of sale a company of one hundred men marched from the township to attempt a rescue. They were met by citizens of York and an affray occurred, which was sufficient to alarm one of the justices, who it is related, holding to a corner with both hands exclaimed "I command *thee* in *my* name to keep peace." These insurgents were soon dispersed by some of the braver men who assembled to maintain the authority of the law, among whom were Henry Miller, John Hay and others.

The first act of the nineteenth century affecting

Adams  
County. the county of York was the erection of Adams county, on the 22nd of January, in the year 1800, taking off an area of 337,920 acres, and about 12,000 people, still leaving York county with fair proportions, with 589,440 acres, 921 square miles, and about 25,000 inhabitants. This separation is represented by contemporary chronicles to have been the result of a prolonged and bitter contest with the western section of the county, commencing in the days of Richard McAlister and Hans Hamilton. The name of Adams at that period in our history, shows the political predilections of the separatists.

The people of the county of York have always been thoroughly a part of the American people—subject to the same party excitements from the days of Adams and Jefferson to those of Hayes and Tilden. Taking their part in the great political contests; and also their full part and share in the glory of the wars of the Republic.

A war with Great Britain broke out in June, 1812, resulting in great glory to the American arms, on sea and land. Such as the celebrated naval battles of the Constitution and Guerriere and of Lake Erie, on the water, and of Fort George, Lundy's Lane, North Point and New Orleans, on land.

A flag borne in the battle of Lake Erie is now in the possession of the widow of Commodore Elliott, residing in this borough. Elliott commanded the U. S. Frigate Niagara, in that brilliant engagement, and for his gallant conduct was voted a gold medal by

congress. It was from the Lawrence to the Niagara, that the celebrated transfer of the flag, inscribed "Don't give up the ship," by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, in the heat of the engagement, took place. Commodore Elliott subsequently commanded the far famed frigate Constitution.

The war of 1812 was opposed by the Federalists, but York County was Republican. The capture of Washington city, on the 25th of August, 1814, by General Ross, and the burning of the capitol, the president's house and other public buildings, caused the opponents of the war to exult, but roused the patriots. When General Ross undertook the expedition against Baltimore, which he boasted he would make "his winter "quarters," and also that "with his command he could march where he pleased in Maryland," word came here of the danger to that city, and several companies were raised, ready to march to its defence.

James Madison, the President of the United States, had issued a proclamation calling on the militia of the several states, and Simon Snyder, the Governor of Pennsylvania, had issued his order on the 26th of August, 1814, to have marched to Yorktown, in the county of York, the place of rendezvous, five thousand men, Pennsylvania militia, on the 5th of September, under the command of General William Winder. A large portion of these troops marched here and occupied the commons, awaiting orders.

In the meantime, however, "The York Volunteers," nearly one hundred strong, composed principally of young men, "the flower of the county," commanded

by Captain Michael H. Spangler, of the Borough of York, had already marched on the 29th of August, 1814, to Baltimore, provisioned by the citizens of the Borough. They were well disciplined and presented a fine appearance, and were attached to the fifth Maryland regiment. They marched with it to North Point, and fought with great gallantry in the battle of the 12th of September, where the enemy were repulsed, and General Ross was killed. The York volunteers received the thanks and commendations of the commanding General Stricker, and of the officers of the fifth Maryland regiment. Grafton Duvall and Henry Slegger are the only survivors of this company.

Two companies marched out of Hanover for Baltimore, in September, and were attached to a Maryland regiment participating in the battle of North Point—of one Frederick Metzgar was captain, John Immell, 1st lieutenant, of the other, John Bair, captain and Henry Wirt, 1st lieutenant. These companies contained fifty to sixty men.

Some years elapsed before any events of a national character transpired, but there were some of local interest and importance. York has had its share of casualties by flood and fire, all of which have been duly chronicled. It is scarcely within the province of this sketch to take note of these, but one instance has become a part of history. A writer of the last century in describing a storm says: "It was one of those tempests which occur once in several centuries, and which by their extensive devastations, are chronicled to eternity; for a storm that

The  
Flood of  
1817.

signalizes its course with extraordinary destruction, becomes as worthy of celebration as a hero for the same reason." So there has been recorded a great flood of the Codorus, in August, 1817. The rain had lasted but a few hours, from about two o'clock of the preceding night until about midday following. The water of the stream rose to an unusual height. The Spring Forge dam broke and others followed. The foaming, roaring torrent rolled through the streets of York like a mighty river, from a quarter to half a mile wide, and deep enough to float a man of war, carrying ruin and destruction in its mad course.— Houses were carried off and many lives were lost. Few communities have ever suffered to such a degree in the loss of life and property as that caused by the memorable flood of 1817.

Storms of hail and snow, fires and riots, disturbances of the elements and by human commotions have been faithfully recorded as they occurred. It may be well here to mention the names of two citizens to whom we are indebted for such records, and whose memoranda and sketches should be preserved. Jacob Lehman, now deceased, and Lewis Miller, still living, to both of whom, we are indebted for incidents within their own time, as well as traditions noted down by them.

The rage of one of the destructive elements is of constant occurrence. To stay its ravages, Fire Companies. organizations were early formed in York. The first volunteer fire companies were bucket companies. The means of extinguishing fires was by ar-

ranging in two lines the people, and passing the fire buckets full up one line and empty down the other.

"The Sun Fire Company of Yorktown," was organized on the 3rd of April, 1772, for "the better preserving our own and fellow townsman's Houses, Goods and Effects from Fire." Each member was to supply "at his own proper expense, one Leathern Bucket, one Bag and one convenient Basket." One part of their duty was to save property and carry it in their bags and baskets to a place of safety and detail one of their members to watch it. Any member who failed to bring bucket, bag or basket on the occasion of a fire was fined one shilling. Among the members we find the familiar names of Henry Miller, John Hay, Michael Doudel, Baltzer Spangler and others. There was also a fire company in existence about the same time called the "Hand in Hand." Idle persons were not allowed about a fire; a committee, appointed for the purpose, put all such in a row to pass buckets. There was what was called a "water engine" in York as early as August, 1772, and a house was built for it in 1773. Afterwards we hear of a *fire engine* with a side lever gallery, supplied by means of buckets as hose was then unknown. The account of a great fire in 1797, taken from the "Pennsylvania Herald" of that date, mentions the *fire engine*, which "some by incessant labor kept in continual exercise." The ladies and children always assisted in the supplying of water, taking their places in the lines and passing the buckets.

The Laurel Fire company has a record of its or-



ganization, on the 13th of February, 1790, and Henry Miller was its first president. Each member furnished his own bucket, on which was painted his name, with the design of a hand grasping a laurel wreath. The additional implements of hooks and ladders were also provided. It is alleged that a fire company called the Union, was organized previous to 1790, and on the 11th of December, 1816, changed its name to the York Vigilant Fire Company; but it is said that the records of this company were swept away by the flood of 1817. These organizations with those since formed, namely, the Union, on the 21st day of May, 1855, and the Rescue, May, 1873, have given York an efficient fire department, which has been supplied with all the improvements in that branch of service. The steamers now in use, contrast strongly the progress in manufactures and science, at the present day, with the primitive means of extinguishing fires.

A supply of water to a community as large as York, for the purpose just mentioned, as well as for the domestic use of the inhabitants, would naturally be a subject of concern. The York water company was organized, and a charter was approved February 8, 1816. The first supply of water to the public, by means of hydrants, was in the following year. The first reservoir was of small capacity, supplied altogether by springs from Erwin's farm; the right having been purchased by the company. The engine and water works to obtain supplies from the Codorus, were erected in 1850, and in

1852 the present large reservoir was constructed.

One other local matter may be mentioned here.

<sup>The</sup> For the purpose of establishing banking in-  
York Bank. stitutions, the legislature by the act of March 21, 1814, divided the state into districts. The county of York was made one, and authorized to establish a bank, to be called the York Bank, which soon after went into operation. It was the only bank until 1850, when the York County Bank was chartered. There are now five National Banks, a Dime Savings Institution, and the Banking House of Weiser, Son & Carl, to accommodate the financial wants of our people.

Early in the year 1825, an event occurred which <sup>Visit of</sup> revived the patriotic feelings of the American <sup>LaFayette.</sup> people and thrilled them with emotions of gratitude. It was the visit of LaFayette to this country and the scenes of his youthful heroism in behalf of liberty. On Saturday, the 29th of January, 1825, at 9 o'clock, in the evening, he arrived in York and passed on to Harrisburg. He returned on Wednesday, the 2nd of February, and "our people were gratified with an opportunity of giving to their early friend and protector a reception, of pouring forth overflowing hearts of gratitude and welcome to him whose name is a passport to the heart of every American." He arrived at 4 o'clock at the first turnpike gate, where he was met by the military and citizens. The general ascended a brouche drawn by gray horses, and the procession entered the town, which was brilliantly illuminated and all the bells ringing, moved up George street to the

court house, and through the principal streets of the town to his place of lodging at McGrath's hotel. A dinner was there given to him at which one hundred gentlemen sat down. To the following toast he responded:

La Fayette—we love him as a man—hail him as a deliverer, revere him as a champion of Freedom, and welcome him as a guest.

To which he gave:

The town of York—the seat of the American union in our most gloomy times—May its citizens enjoy in the same proportion their share of American prosperity.

He reviewed the military of the town the next day, and then left for Baltimore. The military Military of York. companies at that time were, Captain Nes' Artillery, Captains Small, Barnitz, Frysinger and Stuck's Infantry, and Captain Smith's Rifle.

The Americans generally are a military people, and ever ready to obey the maxim of Washington: "In time of peace prepare for war." The militia of Pennsylvania have always been the subject of appropriate legislation, and the militia of York county were well organized in brigades, regiments and battalions, with field and commissioned officers of every grade. In order to keep up a martial spirit and teach discipline, the legislature, by the act of July 11th, 1822, required the militia to be trained and paraded in companies, on the first Monday of May, and in battalions on the second Monday of May, called the muster and battalion days. It did not matter at the muster what

arms were brought to the field, whether the broomstick, or the cornstalk, or a combination of either with small fire arms, or the genuine musket. This militia training was continued, to the delectation of the exempt and of urchins, until it was abolished by law in 1842.

In the meantime the true military spirit of some citizens induced the organization of companies, uniformed, armed and equipped, who would have resented the term militia, if applied to them. These were thoroughly exercised in the manual of arms and regimental manoeuvres; not only exciting admiration, but constituting that great home growth of military power which made the American volunteer so efficient in war. The companies above named indicate the military spirit of York.

The year following the visit of La Fayette was the semi-centennial anniversary of American independence, and the 4th of July, 1826, was celebrated by a memorable military and civic demonstration; its enthusiasm inspired by that visit, as well as by the attainment of fifty years of independence to the nation, and the yet recent results to the national glory in what was then called the late war, wherein our soldiers were matched with veterans of European wars. The oration on the occasion was delivered by Hon. Charles A. Barnitz.

There were men of enterprising, as well as martial spirit, in those days, and by them a charter Codorus Navigation. was procured, on the 12th of April, 1825, for a slack water navigation company, which utilized the

river that runs through our town and county. The Codorus Navigation went into operation in 1833, and was in its day a great triumph of private enterprise. Immense arks of lumber and coal and grain floated on its bosom from the Susquehanna to the doors of our citizens. One must have lived in those days to fully appreciate its success. That work was abandoned nearly twenty years ago, long since superseded by the mighty transportation power of the railway and locomotive. Still as one wanders along the banks of the romantic Codorus, and views the yet open canal, here and there, now put to other uses, it brings to mind the energy that surmounted the obstacles of nature, ere the appliance of those powers in nature herself came into use to aid the feeble arm of man, and above all causes us to admire the enterprise that would bring, away from the main channels of commerce, for the benefit of our own people, articles of merchandise otherwise obtained with much difficulty and cost.

Mechanical progress was not unknown here. The railroad had been heard of and the power of steam was known. In these centennial times it is no small source of congratulation that the first locomotive built in America, and now on exhibition at the great exposition at Philadelphia, in front of the Maryland Building, was built at York, by a Yorker, in 1829. It was constructed by Phineas Davis, who lived here and married here, and citizens are living now who knew him and the fact of the building by him of his locomotive engine. This locomotive was first run upon the Baltimore and Susquehanna

railroad. John Elger constructed about the same time an iron boat, the first of the kind, which, after successful experiment on the Codorus and Susquehanna, was purchased and used abroad.

Enterprise in the matter of railroads has been from the first a marked feature in the progress of our community. Early in the era of the introduction of railroads in this country, communication took place between York and Baltimore, by means of the Baltimore and Susquehanna and the York and Maryland Line railroads. The first regular train of cars arrived in York from Baltimore, on Thursday, the 23d of August, 1838. Thus opening a means of communication, business and social, with a large city, to the great advantage of our people.

The relations between the people of Baltimore and York have been always of a most friendly character, and especially so after the defence of Baltimore in 1814. As soon as the facilities of the railroad were afforded, constant interchange of courtesies took place between the citizen soldiers of the two places, so marked for many years as to deserve especial mention. The 12th of September, the anniversary of the battle of North Point, as well as our national birth day, was celebrated with mutual rejoicings.

During the year 1839, the York military paid a visit to Baltimore, which was returned by the Independent Blues of that city, on the 4th of July, in the same year. The Baltimoreans considered themselves treated with so much kindness, attention and hospitality by the citizens of York, that they were prompt-

ed to make some acknowledgement ; and, on the 31st of August, 1839, the Independent Blues presented a splendid U. S. flag to the volunteer companies of York. That beautiful flag is now in the possession of General George Hay, and is at this moment suspended in front of his residence, almost in view of this assemblage. The material of the flag is of the finest silk ; the head of the staff is a spear of massive silver, elegantly chased, with two silver tassels. On the head is the following inscription :

“Presented by the Independent Blues to the York Volunteers, August, 1839, as a mark of esteem for the unbounded hospitality extended to them during their visit, July 4, 1839.”

It was presented on the 31st of August in front of the White Hall hotel, in the presence of the military and a concourse of citizens, by a committee of the “Blues,” and accepted on behalf of the soldiers by Hon. Charles A. Barnitz. The companies in York, at that time, were the Washington Artillerists, Captain Upp, the Washington Blues, Captain Barnitz, the York Pa. Rifles, Captain Hay, and a company of horse, the Washington Troop, Captain Garretson.—The admirable bearing and drill of which companies many here present so well remember.

The following year, 1840, was characterized throughout the Union, by one of those seasons of intense political excitement, which has become memorable. The presidential campaign, as it was called, was carried on with singular ardor and vivacity; with its log cabins, and hard cider, hickory poles and

immense processions. A plan of electioneering was then introduced which has now ceased. The times were hard and the country was flooded with paper money. Institutions of all kinds and individuals issued their shimplasters, wages were low, and as two dollars a day and roast beef were promised to all laboring men, a revolution in political affairs followed as a matter of course. The minds of the people were absorbed in politics, and yet scarcely any of the questions were of sufficient importance to agitate the people, and could have been readily settled but for the absurdity of making them party issues. The celebrated writer, De Toqueville, who visited this country about that time, speaks with surprise of the *puerile* subjects that agitated the public mind of America and excited such angry and bitter discussion in her legislative halls. He could not understand how such questions, as the rechartering of a national bank, and of the higher or lower rate of duties on articles of importation, could so engross the public attention and mould themselves into the very being of the federal government. Questions which a few statesmen who have studied political economy, could settle with benefit to the government and the people, by a proper observance of the laws of trade, which should govern and not be controlled by legislation. So absorbed was the press of the country at that time, so full of tirades and party zeal, that very little attention was paid to real news or to the interests of literature.

The newspapers in York then were the Republi-



Newspapers can, the Gazette, (English and German,) and the Press. The Republican had been published under that name since 1830, succeeding a paper published from the same office called the York Recorder, commenced in 1800, which had succeeded by a change of name to the Pennsylvania Herald, the first number of which was issued in 1789. The York Gazette was first published in 1815, and the German Gazette was first published in 1821. The first number of the Democratic Press was issued in June, 1838. Since these there have been issued the York Pennsylvanian on July 19, 1851, and the True Democrat in June, 1864. These are the weekly newspapers in the Borough, at the present time, and with the other papers in the county, the Hanover Gazette, (German) and Spectator and Citizen, and Herald, the Wrightsville Star and Glen Rock Item, Dillsburg Era, and two dailies in the borough, present as fair an exhibition of newspaper enterprise and editorial ability as can be found in any community. The York Daily was first issued on the 7th day of February, 1871, and has been continued since then with so much success, at least to the public, as to have become a daily want. The Evening Dispatch was first issued on the 29th day of May, 1876, and promises to be a successful enterprise. There was a daily paper issued during the war, called the York Recorder, and was regularly published from the 17th of June, 1861, to the 20th of August, 1861.

A list of the newspapers and periodicals, for they were many, published at various times in the Borough and County, would be interesting, but it is suffi-

cient for this sketch to refer to a few publications in order to show the literary efforts of our people.

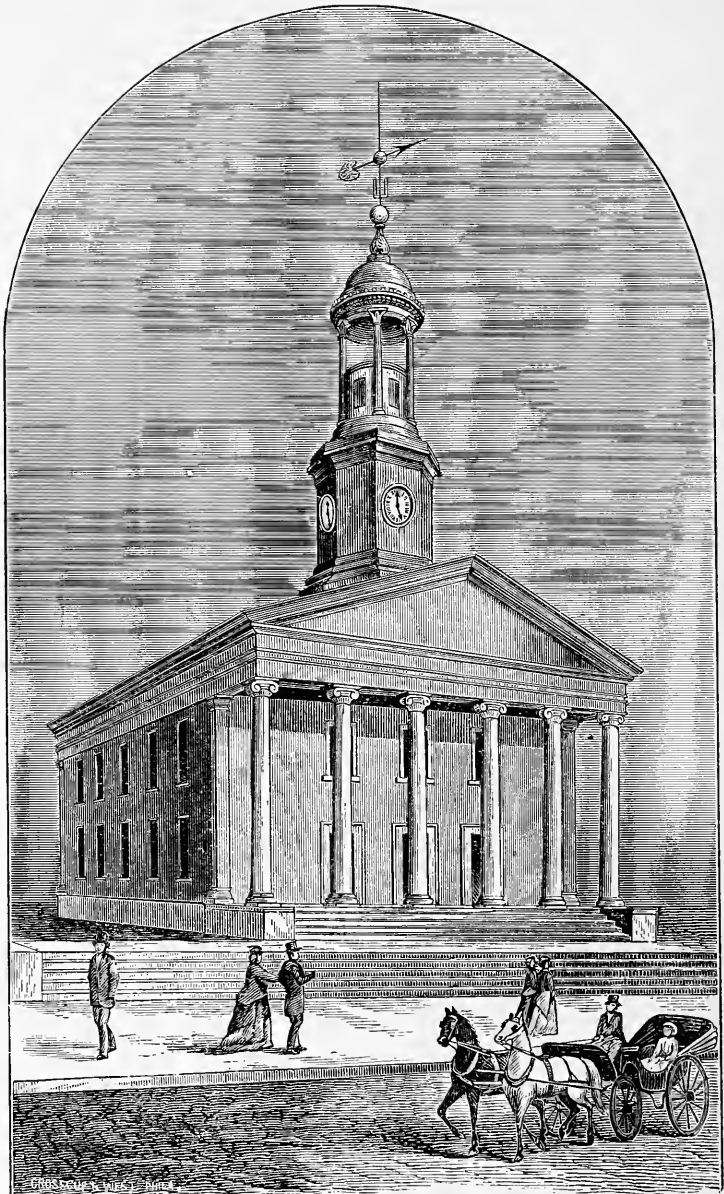
A monthly periodical called the Village Museum was of a high literary character, and in its original essays and selections would have done credit to any place. It was published first in the month of August, 1819, by P. Hardt, then editor of the York Recorder, and continued for four years.

The Theological Seminary, founded by the Synod of the German Reformed Church, was removed here in 1828. The principal professor of that institution, Rev. Lewis Mayer, D. D. edited a church magazine, distinguished for its ability. This seminary was removed to Mercersburg where it became famous for its theology, and is now a part of Franklin and Marshall College, at Lancaster,

In the year 1830, a publication called the Harbinger, was printed and edited by William O. Smith, at Shrewsbury, (a borough that had grown up within the township of that name,) for about three years, when it was removed to York, where it continued for some years.

To return to politics we find that in the years 1840 and 1841, as well as for some time previous, New Court House. there was much party excitement at home, about local affairs. The erection of the new court house at a cost of upwards of one hundred thousand dollars was a subject of much animadversion towards the custodians of the public treasury at that time. But that great work went steadily on to completion, and on Monday the 26th day of August, 1841, (the





THE NEW COURT HOUSE.

August Term,) was opened for the sitting of the court. It is a substantial and handsome structure to have been erected in that day, sufficient in both particulars, with slight enlargement which can be easily done, to continue permanently for the purposes for which it was erected. The steeple was put on the court house in 1847.

An incident that may be noticed in the year 1841 was the removal of the remains of President General Harrison. Harrison, passing through York on the way to North Bend, under a large escort of military from Washington and Baltimore. The citizens of York manifested deep feeling on the occasion. The military and civic associations of all kinds joined the passing escort, the entire pageant was one of the most solemn character and is strongly impressed upon the minds of all who participated in it, on account of the occasion itself, as well as the apprehended momentous political results of the untimely decease of the new president who held his office but one short month.

On the 15th of July, 1844, there was a call for volunteers from York for the suppression of Philada. Riots. the great Native American riot in Philadelphia. The three companies of York already mentioned, the Washington Artillerists, the Washington Blues, and York Pa Rifles, together with companies from the county, in all 3000 men, under the command of General A. C. Ramsay, marched as far as Wrightsville but returned the same day. The report of the Auditor General, in 1845, gives the expense to the

state by the Philadelphia riots at \$45,252,72. The York County troops cost \$7,367,50, and there was paid to the R. R. Co. for transportation \$512,20.

This adventure, brief as it was, is remarkable for the expense it occasioned. Though our troops were not required to suppress the riot, there was bloodshed in Philadelphia before quiet was restored. It was not long, however, before the military power of the nation had to be tested.

There have been many phases of American politics <sup>The</sup> Mexican War. and every presidential election has agitated the people with the discussion of new issues. Those who adhere to the old ones get behind the times. Four years after the election of General Harrison the absorbing questions that had so excited whigs and democrats were weakened in popular estimation by events of national concern. The result of the election of 1844, quieted the issues preceding it, and the new administration of President Polk soon became involved in questions of a different character. Texas had declared independence in 1836, and was acknowledged an independent republic by the United States. That independence had been achieved by American settlers, so that it came asking for admission at the first congress in the new administration and was made one of the states of the union in 1845. The year following found the government embroiled in a war with Mexico. Volunteers were asked for and all parts of the country quickly responded.

York county furnished her proportion of brave men to carry the flag of the United States to the halls of the

Montezumas. Several volunteers left the borough of York for the Mexican war, who were attached to the first Pennsylvanian regiment under Colonel Francis M. Wynkoop, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Black, in Company C. Captain William F. Small. There were nine of them and they participated in many bloody but victorious battles, under the great chieftain, General Winfield Scott, from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, through the battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, National Bridge, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, Contreras, Huantla, where the renowned Captain Samuel Walker was killed, and at the siege of Puebla, where William Eurich one of their number was killed and Jacob Danner died. Peter Ahl Esq., is the only survivor of this band of brave men. Colonel Thomas A. Ziegle was one. The others were Albertus Welsh, Daniel Craver, William Patterson, Robert Patterson and Samuel Stair. Weirich Pentz was in the 4th Ohio, Colonel Brough, and David Hays was in one of the Ohio regiments.

Edward Haviland was a member of the Philadelphia Grays, Captain Scott, attached to the first Pennsylvania volunteers. Colonel Albert C. Ramsay, a resident lawyer of some distinction, commanded a regiment, in which were some men from York county; it was the 11th regiment of the line. George Johnson a soldier from York in that regiment was killed at the battle of Molino del Rey. Theodore D. Cochran was a captain of voltigeurs attached to the same regiment.

There were officers of the regular army from York

in the Mexican war. Major Granville O. Haller was captain of the 4th infantry. William B. Franklin, a graduate of West Point, of 1843, was 1st lieutenant of topographical engineers. H. G. Gibson, a graduate of 1847, was 2d lieutenant of the 3rd artillery. The officers of the navy from York who served in that war, were George P. Welsh, Samuel R. Franklin and William Gibson.

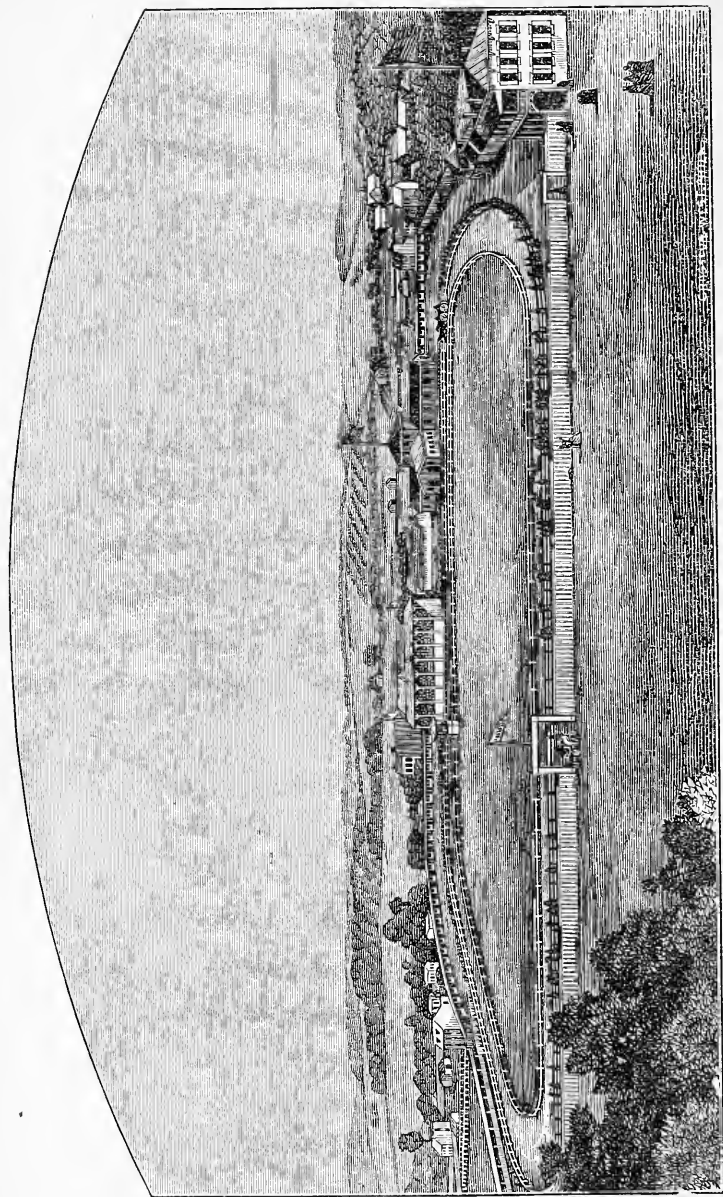
In York and in the county there are several survivors of this notable war, the results of which have since been appreciated. It added to the Union immense tracts of territory and rich states, the golden land of California and the silver mines of Nevada, and opened for us that great transit across the continent to the Pacific, with still more momentous political results to the government and nation.

The Mexican war ended in 1848. But the politics and the wars of the United States do not impede the progress of the people at home. York has always kept pace with the times in public improvements, and all those needful municipal regulations and conveniences which belong to well built cities. Though not incorporated as a city, it has been virtually made one, in all but the name, by supplements to the original charter.

The supply of conveniences has been afforded by individual enterprise. To give light to our  
 York Gas Company. people a supply of gas was furnished to them on the first of January, 1850, by the York Gas Company, which had been incorporated on the 9th of February, 1849.







GROUNDS OF THE YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Charters for railroads had been procured. The  
 Railroads. York and Cumberland Railroad, incorporated as early as 1846, had progressed to construction and was opened for travel in February, 1851, and in 1854 it was, by consolidation with the York and Maryland Line and the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroads, incorporated into the Northern Central Railway, one of the great commercial arteries.

The Hanover Branch Railroad was incorporated in 1847, and was formally opened for business on the 22d of October, 1852. This road has proved a very successful enterprise. The Gettysburg Railroad was subsequently built, in 1856, and these roads are now consolidated as the Hanover Junction, Hanover & Gettysburg Railroad.

In the year 1851, an enterprise was started which  
 Agricultural Society. has proved highly important and beneficial to the people of this county. Its founders say that "the field for beneficial operations and influences was then rather uninviting, and the undertaking to establish a society with hopes of giving it permanency and success was somewhat of an adventure." The York County Agricultural Society was duly organized on the 5th of January, 1852, and held its first exhibition on the commons in the month of October, 1853, and the second was held the October following. They were successful and the society in the meantime having purchased their own grounds, held their third annual exhibition there in the year 1856. These grounds cover an area of about fifteen acres, easily accessible to the throngs of

people who annually visit them. The buildings are well designed for their purposes, and all the improvements are well calculated for the display and examination of the articles exhibited.

We read in old chronicles of certain joyful institutions known as fairs. A part of the charter of privileges from the proprietaries to the inhabitants of the town and county of York, was the grant of the privilege to "have and keep in said town two fairs in the year, the one of them to begin on the ninth day of June yearly, to be held in High street, and to continue that day and the day following; and the other of the said fairs to be held, in the aforesaid place, on the second day of November, every year, and the next day after it, with all the liberties and customs to such fairs belonging or incident." The History of York says: "This charter was received as a high and peculiar blessing. Travelling dealers in small wares found themselves with punctual devotion, at their semi-annual congregations. But as the number of stated merchants increased, our ancient and venerable institutions began to be shorn of their glory. Yet when in 1787, the town was erected into a borough, the legislature particularly continued this privilege of our fathers unto their children. But manners were changing; one part of the community was growing more refined, and another more corrupted; fairs had degenerated from the primitive purity of former years, and became but a scene of a wild merriment or of a riotous commotion. At last on account of the degeneracy of the times, the legislature

on the 29th of January, 1816, prohibited the holding of fairs within the borough of York, and declared such holding to be but a common nuisance. Yet so great is the inveteracy of ancient custom, the former stated days are even now (1834) but too punctually observed. A few years hence the observance of these institutions will have ceased to our county; those who succeed us, may, proud in their own belief, look upon these days as times of a rude and unpolished wilderness."

Common parlance gives the designation of fairs to the annual exhibitions of the York County Agricultural Society. But the exhibits of industrial art and of articles of produce by that society are a wonderful advance upon the fairs of our ancestors.— They draw crowds of people from town and country; but it is to instruct and elevate them, and encourage and develop the agricultural resources and mechanical skill of the people. These agricultural fairs were interrupted during the years 1861, '62, '63 and '64, by the war, during which the grounds were occupied as a military camp.

The immense acquisition of territory brought by the Mexican war, the admission of California as a state, and the question of the territorial powers of the great region of country comprising Kansas and Nebraska, caused intense political excitement in the elections for some years, culminating in the attempted secession of certain states and the great war for the union. The events of that war are too recent for comment; but the part taken

The war  
for the  
Union.

by our people and what transpired here are a part of the history of York, which was marked as a point of hostile demonstrations.

The news of the firing upon Fort Sumpter, which occurred on the 12th of April, 1861, followed by the proclamation of President Lincoln, on the 15th, calling for seventy-five thousand troops, aroused the patriotism of our people. Governor Curtin made a requisition upon the organized companies of Pennsylvania, and the citizen soldiers of York, consisting of the Worth Infantry, Captain Thomas A. Ziegler, and the York Pa. Rifle, Captain George Hay, responded unanimously to the call and obeyed with alacrity the order of the governor.

On the evening of Thursday, the 18th, in pursuance of a general call, the people of York assembled in great numbers in the court house, for the purpose of expressing their sense of the condition of the national government, and to offer aid to those called into the service. John Evans, Esq., was called to the chair, and other prominent citizens were made officers of the meeting. Patriotic resolutions were adopted, and measures taken to provide means for the support of the families of volunteers. The borough authorities appropriated one thousand dollars for this purpose, the commissioners were recommended to make an appropriation of five thousand dollars, and committees were appointed to collect money by voluntary subscription from our citizens, and over two thousand dollars were contributed. The union feeling in York was intensely strong. Flags were sus-

pended from the principal buildings, places of business and private residences, and poles were erected from which the stars and stripes floated proudly to the breeze. The ancient borough of York was not behind any of her neighbors in patriotism and zeal.

Events thickened and aroused intense feeling.— The sixth Massachusetts regiment while passing through Baltimore, on the 19th was attacked by a mob and the passage of some of the cars obstructed. The soldiers who were obliged to form for the purpose of marching through the city, being assaulted with increased violence, fired upon the crowd. Two of the Massachusetts soldiers were killed and seven persons in the crowd, some rioters and some who were looking on. On that night a portion of the track of the Northern Central Railway was torn up between Cockeysville and Baltimore, and a number of the bridges on the road were set on fire and burned down, for the purpose of impeding the passage of troops from the north.

The military companies from this place received orders on Saturday evening, the 20th, to hold themselves in readiness to march, and at eleven o'clock at night they left in a special train, going towards Baltimore, and were stationed in squads at the several bridges along the route of the road, and some at Cockeysville. Ten or twelve trains with troops passed through York on Sunday, from early in the morning until late at night, proceeding as far as Ashland and Cockeysville, concentrating some three thousand men at those points. But on Monday these several

regiments returned to York and encamped on the fair grounds.

At the meeting of the court on Monday, the 22d, the president judge, Hon. Robert J. Fisher, in charging the grand jury, referred to the distracted state of the country, and urged upon them the necessity of providing for the comfort and support of those who had so promptly obeyed their country's call. He stated that the citizens of York had subscribed several thousand dollars, and that the borough authorities had appropriated a thousand dollars, and recommended the grand jury to request the commissioners to make a liberal appropriation for the same purpose out of the county funds, and said that he had no doubt the appropriation would be legalized by the legislature. Several members of the bar also addressed the grand jury. The scene was a very impressive one. The grand jury the next day recommended that the commissioners appropriate ten thousand dollars, which was promptly done. Hanover and Wrightsville made liberal appropriations, making about fifteen thousand dollars in all. The legislature subsequently ratified these proceedings.

The troops which had passed through York to Cockeyville on Saturday and Sunday, were  
Camp  
Scott. the first, second and third regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers, for the three months service, composed of organized companies from nearly all the cities and principal towns in the state, the military companies of Easton, Allentown, Reading, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Chambersburg, Gettysburg, Co-



lumbia, Bloomfield, West Chester, Bellefonte, Hollidaysburg, Altoona, Johnstown, East Liberty, and other places—some unattached—together with our own military companies who were as early as any of them in the field. They came from comfortable homes and were unaccustomed to exposure and hardship. The commissary arrangements were not sufficient for so large a body of men suddenly thrown together, and they depended to some extent on voluntary supplies from our own people.

The hospitality of the citizens of York, on this occasion, extended to these new recruits, has frequently been mentioned by them in complimentary terms. The encampment here was for the purpose of instruction and was called Camp Scott in honor of the veteran commander in chief of the United States army. The town assumed a warlike appearance.—Other troops came on the 26th of April, the 12th and 13th regiments from Pittsburg arrived, and by the 7th of May there were five thousand five hundred men in camp here. In addition to these was Captain Campbell's battery of twelve pieces of artillery.

The 2nd regiment, Colonel Stumbaugh, of Chambersburg, had been organized on the 21st of  
2nd P. V. April. The York Rifles, George Hay, captain, John W. Schall, 1st Lieutenant, and Jacob Emmitt, Jr., 2nd lieutenant, were attached to it here as company K.

The material of which the 16th regiment was formed was also encamped on the fair grounds.  
16th P. V. Five companies were from Schuylkill county,

one from Mechanicsburg, Captain Dorsheimer's, the first company in the state that enlisted for three years, and four companies from York county. These were, company A (Worth Infantry), captain, John Hays, 1st lieutenant, Solomon Myers, 2nd lieutenant, John M. Deitch; company F, (Marion Rifles of Hanover), captain, Horatio Gates Myers, 1st lieutenant, Joseph Renaut, 2nd lieutenant, Jacob W. Bender, company G, (Hanover Infantry), captain, Cyrus Diller, 1st lieutenant Henry Morningstar, 2nd lieutenant Joseph S. Jenkins; company H, (York Voltiguers), captain, Theodore D. Cochran, 1st lieutenant, Michael Gallagher, 2nd lieutenant, Andrew D. Yocum. The regiment was organized at Camp Curtin on the 3rd of May, by the selection of Thomas A. Ziegle as colonel. A. H. Glatz was made quarter master and Charles Garretson, assistant quarter master.

The regiments here were all ordered to Chambersburg and left about the first of June, with every demonstration of encouragement, amid cheers and waving of handkerchiefs—the Rifles leaving with their regiment; but the 16th remained for a few days.—This regiment had already acquired great proficiency of drill under the care of its accomplished commander. On Saturday, the 8th of June, it marched into town to take its departure for the seat of war. In the morning a flag was presented to the regiment by the ladies of York. A perfect storm of flowers fell upon the soldiers as they marched through the streets, every one had a bouquet in his musket.

The 16th was in the brigade of Colonel Miles, U.

S. A., 1st division, and the 2nd regiment was in a brigade of the 2nd division, of the army of General Patterson in the campaign of the valley of the Shenandoah. They moved from Chambersburg to Hagerstown and Williamsport. At the latter place, Albertus Welsh died on the 27th of June, the first soldier from York who died in the war. He was a member of the Worth Infantry, and as already mentioned was one of the nine veterans from here in the war with Mexico. The Potomac was crossed on the 2nd of July by fording it, and an advance made to Martinsburg, arriving about the middle of July at Bunker Hill, driving in Johnston's advance guard. The regiment then made a forced march towards Harper's Ferry, the enemy's pickets retreating before them and encamped at Charlestown, on the 17th of June. They were constantly threatened with attack but no action took place. When their term of service expired the 2d and 16th regiments returned to Harrisburg and were mustered out. The Worth Infantry and York Rifles arrived home on the 27th of July, where they were welcomed by the ringing of bells, firing of cannon, speeches and a banquet. The Voltiguers arrived home on the 2d of August, their commander, T. D. Cochran, was subsequently appointed a captain in the regular army. Captain H. G. Myers, of the Marion Rifles, had been left ill at Hagerstown, where he died on the 8th of August.— Thomas Brannon, a member of his company, died at the same place, on the 17th of July.

Thus ended the campaign of the three months men.

Though our soldiers were not engaged in battle, and we were glad to see them home safe and sound, events showed that they might have been. The demonstrations of Johnston in the neighborhood of Harper's Ferry were only feints, as was proved by his opportune arrival on the battle field of Bull Run, on Sunday, the 21st of July. Instead of the army of General Patterson engaging him and preventing him from reinforcing Beauregard, he was permitted to retire with all the appearance of a retreat. The great embarrassment under which General Patterson labored, and perhaps an altogether sufficient excuse for him, is found in the fact of the expiration of the term of enlistment of so many of his men just at the time of that battle, which after all, some have considered a Providential reverse.

There had already been a call on the part of the government for men to serve for three years unless sooner discharged. The 30th regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, otherwise known as the First regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, organized on the 9th of June, 1861, at Camp Wayne, Chester county, was represented by company D, recruited in Lancaster and York counties. The 41st regiment, the 12th Reserves, was first raised for the three months service. Samuel N. Bailey, of York county, was made lieutenant colonel. Company G., Captain Charles W. Diven, afterwards major, was recruited in York county. To enumerate the battles of this renowned corps would be to relate the greater part of the history of the war. It is suf-

1st & 12th  
Penn'a.  
Reserves.

ficient to say that York county had men in the Pennsylvania Reserves.

The 43rd regiment, known as the 1st Pennsylvania Artillery, was formed under the call for volunteers of 13th April, 1861. One company was recruited in York by Alfred E. Lewis, who at the organization of the regiment was made senior major. The colonel was Charles T. Campbell, who, it will be remembered, was here with a battery during the encampment of troops on the fair grounds. He had enlisted twenty or more men here who were attached to battery A, commanded by Captain Easton, which performed gallant service at Drainesville, and Gaines' Mill, where Captain Easton was killed. The other company recruited here became battery E, Captain Thomas G. Orwig, and served in the Peninsular campaign under McClellan, and in the army of the James, rendering valuable service at Drury's Bluff and Fort Harrison, and at the siege of Petersburg and Richmond. It was the first battery that entered the capital, reaching there before the enemy's flag was pulled down and hastening the retreat of the vanguard of the enemy who had intended to fire the city.

Two companies of infantry for three year's service were recruited in York county early in 1861. One in York by H. Clay McIntyre, and the other in Hanover by Cyrus Diller, immediately after his return from the three months service. These companies were attached to the 76th regiment, which was raised under a special order of the secretary

of war, and was known as the Keystone Zouaves, John M. Power of Cambria county, colonel. Charles Garrettson of York was made quartermaster, who, while serving with it, was appointed a captain in the regular army. The captains of Company D were successively, Cyrus Diller, afterwards major, William S. Diller and Charles L. Bittenger; of company I, H. Clay McIntyre, Jacob J. Young, Frank J. Magee, and Harrison Stair.

On the 18th of November, 1861, the regiment received its colors from the hands of Governor Curtin, and proceeded to Fortress Monroe, sailed from there to Hilton Head, assisted in taking Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River, participated in the attack on Charleston under General Wright, and engaged the enemy with heavy loss in an expedition to sever communication between Charleston and Savannah. On the 6th of July, 1863, it moved to Morris Island, and on the 10th it took part in the memorable assault on Fort Wagner, which it charged in gallant style. They received the order to charge as the flash of the artillery fire was seen, knelt and permitted the discharge of the guns to pass over them, then started forward with a yell. The ranks were thinned at every discharge. The moat was reached and crossed, and many fell on the parapet beyond, 130 men and five officers were left behind. A second assault took place on the 18th of July, with a similar result. Frank J. Magee acted as aid to General Strong in the engagement. Company I went in with thirty-six men and but twelve escaped.—

Twelve regiments were afterwards ordered to take the fort by storm, but were repulsed with great loss. Fort Wagner was a heavy sand fort, bomb proof, covering several acres. It was ultimately demolished after a fierce cannonading of fifty days duration, when it was discovered that it had been abandoned by the enemy. This regiment afterwards fought at Drury's Bluff, where captain J. J. Young of company I was killed, and was with the 10th corps, at Cold Harbor, and under General Terry, to whom Capt. Magee was said-de-camp, took part in the capture of Fort Fisher, in January, 1865. It was disbanded at Harrisburg, July 23, 1865, after one of the longest terms of service in the war.

After the departure of the regiments quartered 87th P. V. here a company was organized by Captain James A. Stahle, called the Ellsworth Zouaves, after the brave but ill-fated officer of that name. This company became company A of the 87th regiment. Captain George Hay immediately after the return of the Rifles on the 19th of August, 1861, received a commission as colonel. The project originally was the raising of a regiment for the purpose of guarding the Northern Central Railway, in relief of other regiments recruited for the war. By the 12th of September there were five companies mustered in. John W. Schall was made lieutenant colonel and Charles H. Buehler, major. Eight of the companies were from York county and two from Adams. The officers commanding this regiment successively were Colonels George Hay, John W. Schall and James

Tearney, lieutenant colonel, James A. Stahle, major, Noah G. Ruhl, adjutant, Jacob Emmitt, Jr. Company A, captains, John Fahs, James Tearney, Geo. J. Chalfant. Company B, captains, Jacob Detweiler, Lewis Maish, Zeph. E. Hersh. Company C, Andrew J. Fulton, Murray S. Cross, Findlay S. Thomas. Company D, James H. Blasser, Edgar M. Ruhl. Company E, Solomon Myers, Charles J. Fox. Company F, Wm. J. Martin, James Adair. Company G, V. C. S. Eckert, H. Morningstar. Company I, Thaddeus S. Pfeiffer, Wm. H. Lanus. Company H, Ross L. Harman, Wells A. Farrah. Company K, John Albright.

The first duty assigned them was the guarding of the railroad, relieving the 20th Indiana. On the 28th of May, 1862, the regiment was moved to Baltimore, and thence to West Virginia, and was kept actively employed and moving from point to point, under great fatigue and exposure, until it went into winter quarters with General Milroy's division at Winchester, about the 1st of January, 1863. Here they performed picket duty during the winter under very severe exposure.

In May, 1863, by the resignation of Colonel Hay, John W. Schall became colonel, James A. Stahle, lieutenant colonel and Noah G. Ruhl, major. Major Buehler was made colonel of the 166th.

If the army of General Patterson in 1861 ought to have engaged the enemy, it may be said that the command of General Milroy, in 1863, ought not to have hazarded an engagement. He was over san-



guine of holding his position, and by the consent of General Schenck, disobeyed an order to retreat.— The advance of General Lee's forces for the invasion of the North, flushed with success, could not be checked by his comparatively small force.

On the 12th of June, 1863, the first of a series of battles was fought by the 87th, at Middletown, ten miles distant from Winchester, with the advance guard of Ewell's army, and on the 13th and 14th they behaved with great gallantry in the battle of Winchester. On the 14th a brilliant charge was made by it at Carter's woods, in which Colonel Schall had a horse shot under him. Captain French and Lieutenant Slothower of company H, were killed.— The regiment joined the army of the Potomac in July 1863, and was attached to the 3d corps, General French, and was in the battles of Manassas Gap, Bealton Station, Kelley's Ford, Brandy Station, Locust Grove, and Mine Run.

Afterwards assigned to the 6th Corps, General Hancock, it was in the battles of the Wilderness, and at Cold Harbor where Colonel Schall was wounded and Captain Pfeiffer was killed, and the regiment sustained a loss in killed and wounded of nearly a third of its strength.

On the 6th of July, the battle of Monocacy was fought against superior numbers, the loss of the regiment being greater than in any other battle.— Among those who lost their lives at this battle were Adjutant Martin and Lieutenants Haak, Dietrich, Spangler and Waltemeyer. In September the regi-

ment was with the army of Sheridan at the battle of Opequon, where the enemy were defeated, and on the 22d at Fisher's Hill where he was again routed. The next day the term of service expired and the remnant of the regiment returned home arriving at York on the 27th of September, 1864, where a reception was awaiting them—their arrival announced by the ringing of bells. The old flag which they bore through all their battles was carried in the procession torn in shreds. Few regiments saw more active service and work or suffered more.

The veterans who had re-enlisted and the new recruits who remained at the seat of war, were consolidated into a battalion of five companies, under command of Captain Edgar M. Ruhl, who was killed while gallantly leading them in the battle of Cedar Creek, October 19th, 1864. The regiment being recruited to its full strength, Captain Tearney was commissioned colonel, and it participated in the charge upon the works before Petersburg, where Lieutenants Keasey and Nickle were killed. It was mustered out on the 29th of June 1865.

After his return from the three month's service  
107th P. V. Colonel Thomas A. Ziegle received authority to recruit a regiment. One of the most experienced and accomplished volunteer officers in the service he assisted in the organization of troops at Harrisburg, and on the 5th of March, 1862, was given the command of the 107th. Company A, Captain Jacob Dorsheimer, had volunteers from York county—Oliver P. Stair, 1st lieutenant, George C.

Stair, 2d lieutenant. On Sunday, the 9th of March, the regiment passed through York, for the seat of war, moved to Washington, and on the 2d of April crossed the Potomac, and was assigned to Duryea's brigade, Ord's division, of McDowell's corps. After the defeat of Fremont and Banks by Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, the regiment reached Front Royal by forced march, on the 1st of June, where Jackson had retreated. The regiment encamped at different places and while near Warrenton, on the morning of the 16th of July, Colonel Ziegle died.—The whole regiment were devotedly attached to him and he was regarded as one of the most efficient officers in the brigade. He had been identified with the military of York for so many years, that his career was regarded with expectations of unusual success. He has already been mentioned as one of the volunteers in the Mexican war from York, where he had displayed remarkable coolness and bravery, and became captain of his company. Immediately after that war he raised the military company known as the Worth Infantry, whose discipline and drill were not excelled by any corps in the Union. The Worth Infantry was the equal in their peculiar drill of the gallant Ellsworth's company of Zouaves. His readiness and that of his company on the breaking out of the war for the Union, their services, the organization of the 16th regiment and its service have already been mentioned. His remains were brought home and were interred with impressive obsequies in Prospect Hill Cemetery, on the 20th of July, 1862.

The 107th regiment became part of the army under General Pope and was first under fire at Cedar Mountain, on the 9th of August, 1862, and was in the second battle of Bull Run, and at Chantilly, South Mountain and Antietam. In October, 1862, it took position in General Franklin's grand division and was at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. It was in the first corps, General Reynolds, at Gettysburg, engaged the first day on Seminary Ridge, and on the 3rd to the right of Cemetery Hill. In February, 1864, nearly the entire regiment re-enlisted, and after the veteran furlough, was with Grant in his movement across the James, heavily engaged, and before Petersburg. At Weldon station, Lieutenant George C. Stair was captured and with other officers made his escape through the enemy's lines. Oliver P. Stair was promoted to captain, and made brevet Major.— James Crimmons was wounded at Antietam, taken prisoner at Gettysburg and Weldon station, and was made a first lieutenant in July, 1865. The regiment was mustered out on the 13th of July, 1865.

In the summer of 1862, a company was raised in York, by Colonel Levi Maish, and about the same time companies by Captains Hamilton Glessner and Lewis Small, and a company in Hanover by Captain Joseph S. Jenkins, which were mustered into the service at Harrisburg, about the middle of August. These, with five companies from Cumberland county, and some recruits from other counties, were formed into the 130th regiment, Henry J. Zinn of Cumberland, colonel, and Levi Maish of

130th  
P. V.

York, lieutenant colonel, and John Lee, of Cumberland, major. Company B, Captain Glessner, lieutenants, William H. Tomes, Henry Reisinger; company C, Captain Jenkins, lieutenants, Benj. F. Myers, Wm. Bossler; company I, Captain Small, lieutenants, D. Wilson Grove, Franklin G. Torbet, Jere Oliver; company K, Captains Maish, David Z. Seipe, lieutenants, James Lece, John J. Frick. The regiment proceeded at once to Washington and was moved across the Potomac. After the retreat of Pope it was assigned in September to French's division of Sumner's corps, and on the 16th, but one month after its formation, was in front of the enemy at Antietam, in the center.

The 130th were posted, on the 17th, upon the crest of a hill with a field of corn in front, and the enemy lay at the further edge behind a stone wall. Company K was one hundred yards from where the enemy lay in the rifle pits. The regiment held this exposed position for hours. "The shot and shell flew like heavy hail and the men became deaf from the roar of musketry and cannon." General French said: "The conduct of the new regiments must take a prominent place in the history of this great battle. There never was such material in any army." The officers from York county wounded, were Colonel Maish, Captain, afterwards Major Jenkins, and Lieutenants Seipe and Tomes. Major Jenkins afterwards was attached to the 184th regiment and was killed in November, 1864, in front of Petersburg.

At daylight, on the 11th of December, the regiment moved to within sight of the spires of Fredericksburg,

at night, assisted in laying a pontoon bridge opposite the upper end of the city, and on the following morning crossed with the division and bivouacked in the streets of the city, part of which was still burning, and at night occupied the ruins of a large brick building on Caroline street. The great battle began on the morning of the 13th by the firing of the artillery on both sides, and when the infantry was put in motion, the division of General French was in advance, which was exposed to a terrific cross fire of shot and shell, but pressed on with broken and thinned ranks, until it was compelled to fall back. Among the killed were Colonel Zinn, commanding the regiment, and Lieutenant Torbet, of this county.

Levi Maish was promoted to colonel on the 3rd of February, 1863. When the command of the army devolved upon General Hooker, the regiment was moved to Chancellorsville, and it was engaged in the furious battle of the 3rd of May, 1863, where Colonel Maish was again wounded.

On the 12th of May, the regiment was relieved from further duty. The special order of Major General French relieving the 130th and 132nd, said: "The General Commanding the division takes pleasure in promulgating, in orders, their gallantry, soldier-like bearing and efficiency, during their entire term of service." And after referring to the great battles in which they had been engaged, said: "Soldiers you return to your native state which has received luster from your achievements, and by your devotion to your country's cause. This army and the division

to which you are attached, although they lose you, will always retain and cherish the credit which your military bearing on all occasions reflected on them."

On the announcement of their return, a town meeting was held for their reception, and on Saturday, the 23rd of May, 1863, they received a handsome and hearty welcome. The bells were rung, business suspended, a procession formed under a military and civic escort to the U. S. Hospital, where a collation was served by the Ladies' Aid Society, and speeches of welcome were made and responded to by the Colonel, in praise of the bravery of his men in their great battles.

In all great wars, as was remarked in noting the events of the Revolution, the first volunteers are not sufficient to the conduct of a prolonged war, and especially in the recent war, carried on upon such an immense scale, a draft was necessary. On two occasions there was a draft in York, on the 16th of October, 1862, and in August, 1863. There were other calls, and partial drafts, but, generally, on the announcement of the quota for any district it was filled either by volunteers or by means of subscriptions for the purpose. Many took their chances of the draft and went in person when drawn. It is the experience of army officers that men raised by this means are as steady and efficient as any other troops.

The 166th regiment was formed, in large part, by men raised under the draft of 1862. It was organized on the 29th of November in that year, on the fair grounds, named Camp Franklin,

after Major General William B. Franklin, with the following field officers: Andrew J. Fulton, late captain of Company C of the 87th, colonel, George W. Reisinger, lieutenant colonel, and Joseph A. Renaut, major. The troops comprising this regiment were exclusively from York county, and proved themselves to be good soldiers. On the 8th of November, the regiment proceeded to Washington, and from thence to Newport, and under General Peck, to Suffolk, which place was besieged by General Longstreet for more than three weeks, who failed to reduce it. While there, companies of the 166th were engaged in heavy skirmishes with the enemy and sustained considerable loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. Companies D and I had a severe conflict on the 14th of May, near Carnsville. After further service in the destruction of railroads leading north, during which they were exposed to the fire of the enemy, especially at Hanover Junction, while engaged in destroying the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad. At the expiration of their term of service, on the 28th of July, 1863, they were mustered out. The regiment left with over eight hundred men and about six hundred and fifty returned—nine were killed, about twenty-five died, and others were left sick at Fortress Monroe.

In the meantime, events at home gave our people work to do; and in all cases when called upon U. S. Hospital. to furnish provisions or give aid to the sick and wounded, they were ready with abundance, and with sanitary help. The 2nd regiment of the Ira Harris



cavalry (6th N. Y.) took up winter quarters here about Christmas, 1861. In the course of the winter barracks were erected on the commons for their accommodation. This regiment had occasion to express their appreciation of the hospitable attention they received from our citizens. General Havelock, a distinguished British officer, a volunteer on the staff of General McClellan, as Inspector General of Cavalry, visited York, in March, 1862, for the purpose of superintending the transportation of the New York regiment, which soon after left us. The barracks erected for them were converted into a military hospital, in the course of the summer, in which many hundreds of soldiers were placed. The ladies of the borough formed a society for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, Mrs. C. A. Morris, president, which was perfect in organization and effectiveness, and the attention, sympathy and aid afforded by it have been gratefully remembered.

Great apprehensions were excited by the retreat of the army under General Pope, in September, 1862, and still further increased by the crossing of the Potomac by the rebels in large force, and the occupation of the city of Frederick. In consequence of the reported advance of the enemy towards the Pennsylvania line, a meeting of the citizens of the borough was called, on the 8th of September, 1862, and it was resolved to form companies in the respective wards, and voluntary organizations were thereupon immediately formed, in the first, second, third, fourth and fifth wards, two in the fourth, and an

Alarm,  
1862.

independent company being the seventh, called the Keystone Guards, and a cavalry company called the Videttes. The captains of these companies secured seven hundred stand of arms and necessary accoutrements. Places of business were closed at 6 o'clock, to give an opportunity for drilling, and to acquire proficiency in case the companies were needed.— They were all mustered into the service on the 12th of September, 1862, and were not discharged until the 24th. The Keystone Guards were fully armed and equipped ready to march when the order to move was countermanded. The reception of the news of the battle of Antietam, and of the retreat of Lee across the Potomac, quieted the country.

In June, 1863, our people were again thrown into Alarm, 1863. a state of excitement from an apprehended rebel invasion. Two military departments were erected and General Couch was given command of the eastern department, and orders issued for the formation of the army corps of the Susquehanna, but the enemy moved with more rapidity than was expected. Dr. Palmer, surgeon in charge of the U. S. Hospital, received orders to remove the patients and stores to a place of greater security, the rolling stock of the Northern Central Railway was removed northward, and citizens were warned to take care of their valuables, especially their horses. A large meeting was held on the 15th of June, and a committee of safety formed. Major Granville O. Haller, 7th U. S. Infantry, who was in York at this time, was placed in command of military preparations here by order

of General Couch. General William B. Franklin, U. S. A., was also present in York. These officers met in consultation with the safety committee. Large bounties were offered by the borough and county authorities. A company under Captain Seip was organized and sent to Harrisburg, and a company of horsemen acted as scouts. But before any further organizations could be effected, the rapid movements of the enemy brought him to our doors. They came nearer and nearer, heralded by flying families, and horses and cattle, removed by the orders of General Couch, to the east of the Susquehanna. On the 26th of June, Gettysburg was occupied by a large force. Late at night the Philadelphia City Troop arrived with jaded horses and reported that they had been chased several miles this side of Gettysburg. Major Haller arrived at midnight, having narrowly made his escape from that place. The enemy were reported the next day, Saturday, at Abbottstown. The troops here, consisting of the Patapsco Guards, about sixty men, and two hundred convalescents of the hospital and some citizens, the City Troop, a cavalry company from Gettysburg, in all about three hundred and fifty men—companies of citizens were not ordered out—were at first moved westward, but it was deemed that such resistance as they might make would likely result in disaster to the town, and they were moved towards Wrightsville.

On the 28th of June, 1863, the rebel army entered York. They marched into town about ten o'clock, on Sunday morning, entering the

Occupation  
of York.

west end of Market street; the church bells had commenced ringing and the citizens crowded the streets. Ladies on their way to church stopped on the porches and sidewalks. The whole population soon thronged the streets, and men, women and children, looked with curious eyes, mingled with undefined apprehensions, upon the motley procession of cavalry, infantry and artillery marching up Market street, the soldiers looking curiously from side to side, astonished not less at their observers than their observers were at them. The people were in holiday or Sunday costume—the ladies in all their fashionable finery, and the men looking well dressed and comfortable, in strange contrast with the ragged and worn appearance of the invading army. These first troops that entered the town were General Gordon's brigade of twenty-five hundred men, who marched up Market street, and on towards Wrightsville. The Union flag was floating in the centre square and was taken down and carried off by them.

Two regiments of infantry, with ten pieces of artillery, followed, and with them, Major General Early, commander of the division. This last brigade took possession of the hospital grounds—the commons. General Early established his headquarters in the court house. York was the only place of any considerable size and wealth they had had in their grasp. They saw the rich valley, and the evidences of prosperity all around us, and made their demands accordingly. Although the men were restrained from violence and citizens were treated with respect, the iron hand

of an enemy was felt. A requisition was made for provisions and articles of clothing and one hundred thousand dollars in money. Our prominent business men, by their efforts, partially filled the requisition—raising some twenty-eight thousand dollars. Threats were made of burning the railroad buildings and car shops, and prudence dictated compliance as far as possible.

Four brigades were in York and vicinity, commanded by Generals Gordon, Hayes, Smith and Hoke. The brigade of General Gordon marched to Wrightsville, reaching there about six o'clock, in the evening. The few Union troops there retreated across the bridge, after the exchange of a few shots with the enemy. The bridge was fired about midway, and soon the whole was enveloped in flames. The invading troops left hastily on the morning of Tuesday, the 30th of June, between four and five o'clock.

There were some incidents connected with the rebel invasion of the Borough of York, which gave rise to much excitement and misrepresentation at the time and afterwards, and as a part of the *res gestae*, as the lawyers say, cannot pass unnoticed. Sufficient time has elapsed since the war to view the proceedings calmly. A visit was made to the camp of the enemy, on the evening preceding his entry into town, by the request of the committee of safety, in order to assure the alarmed citizens of the safety of person and property—an assurance which accounts for the calm manner in which the presence

and control of a hostile foe was viewed by our people the next day; and the flag, in centre square, was left flying to show that the town was *not* surrendered. It was soon after replaced by another flag, presented by W. Latimer Small, Esq., to the borough.

At Hanover, the first battle of the war in Pennsylvania, was fought on Tuesday, the 30th of June, 1863, an artillery and cavalry fight which lasted the greater part of the day—the cannonading was distinctly heard in York. The third division of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac, under General Kilpatrick, one of the brigades of which was commanded by General Custer, reached Littlestown on the 29th, and Hanover on the 30th, in pursuit of General Stuart, who was known to be moving through Pennsylvania. The 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry was of the rear guard of Kilpatrick's column, and while halting in the streets of Hanover, was suddenly attacked by the head of Stuart's column, the 18th was at first driven through the town but rallying with the 5th New York, drove the enemy back, when his artillery opened fire. The roar of guns brought Kilpatrick to the rescue. He formed his line of battle on the hills south of Hanover, and the enemy held the heights to the north, the 18th Pennsylvania occupying the town and barricading the streets. The fight, with artillery firing and skirmishing, continued until dark, when the enemy retired. A large body of them came as far as Dover, and about two hundred and thirty prisoners were paroled there. Thirteen Union men were killed and fourteen

wounded, four rebels killed and nine wounded. Stuart was prevented by this engagement from joining Lee until after the battle of Gettysburg, and his absence was greatly deplored by the Confederate leader.

Among the most renowned and effective branches of the service were the cavalry regiments. The 11th Cavalry, (108th P. V.) was organized at the commencement of the war. It received recruits here who were attached to company I, Capt. Wm. I. Reisinger and Daniel H. Shriver, lieutenant. This regiment was employed in continuous and arduous cavalry service for four years, with the army of the Potomac and with Sheridan. In one of its raids Lieutenant Shriver was killed, at Flat Creek Bridge, on the 14th of February, 1864.

During the months of June and July, 1863, the 21st Cavalry, (182 P. V.) was recruited, under a call for cavalry for six months' service, during which it was on scouting duty in the Shenandoah valley. Company A, Captain Hugh W. McCall, lieutenants, S. Nelson Kilgore and Samuel N. Manifold, was raised principally in the lower end of York county. In January, 1864, it was re-organized for three years' service. This regiment was engaged at Cold Harbor, on the 1st, 2d and 3d of June, 1864, and in the assault on Petersburg, on the 18th. Again, at Jerusalem Plank Road, Weldon Railroad, at Poplar Spring Church, where it was complimented for its gallantry by General Griffin, and at Hatcher's Run. Afterwards it was in other engagements, and, in the final assault upon the defences of

Petersburg, had the honor of making the first charge, in the campaign, near Dinwiddie Court House, and had other fighting up to the surrender near Appomattox Court House. It was mustered out on the 8th of July, 1865.

Just previous to the invasion of Pennsylvania, in June, 1863, a company was formed in York, 187th P. V. which was united with a body of troops, known as the First Battalion, and placed on guard and provost duty. In March, 1864, it became company B, of the 187th P. V., then organized for three years' service: David Z. Seipe, captain, afterwards major, Sam'l I. Adams, 1st lieutenant, afterwards captain, Matthew H. McCall, 1st lieutenant and quarter master of the regiment, Jonathan J. Jessop, William W. Torbert, Samuel C. Ilgenfritz, 2nd lieutenants. In May, 1864, the regiment was ordered to the front to join the Army of the Potomac and assigned to the 5th corps, arriving in time to participate in the battle of Cold Harbor. It suffered severely at Petersburg, on the 18th of June, Major Merrick, commanding the regiment, and Lieutenant Jessop, each lost a leg, while leading their men to the charge. For its gallant conduct the regiment received the commendation of General Chamberlain, commanding the corps. It was again engaged at Weldon Railroad, on the 18th of August. In September it was moved from the front and placed on duty at Philadelphia, where it acted as escort to the remains of President Lincoln on the occasion of the funeral obsequies in that city.

Besides the company of Captain Seipe, just men-



tioned, companies were formed in York county, who were mustered in for the emergency service, from June to August, 1863, but the great victory of Gettysburg, relieved our people from all apprehended danger.

The first and eleventh corps of the army of the Potomac, on Wednesday, the 1st of July, 1863, Battle of Gettysburg. came up with the enemy, in large force, under Generals Hill and Longstreet, near Gettysburg, and a short and severe engagement ensued in and around that town. General Reynolds was killed at the commencement of the fight, while riding at the head of his troops. On Thursday, another engagement began—the rest of the army under General Meade having come up, and the army of the Confederates under General Lee. The firing was heard here distinctly, and in the evening, from six to eight o'clock, it was terrific. On Friday, the battle continued, resulting in the defeat and retreat of Lee. This great battle furnished an opportunity to our people to forward supplies and assistance to the wounded and suffering soldiers, on and in the neighborhood of the field of battle. It scarce needed a public meeting, which was called for the purpose, to cause our citizens to bring in abundance of provisions to the market and court houses. In less than two hours and a half, thirty wagons, loaded down with the necessaries of life, bread, cakes, hams and delicacies, accompanied by male and female nurses, were on their way to the battle field. Provisions continued to arrive and were at once forwarded to the scene of action.

In the early part of 1864, sanitary fairs throughout the country were held, and the ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society of York, in February of that year, inaugurated a series of entertainments in connection with their fair, consisting of concerts, tableaux and other exhibitions, by which large amounts of money were raised for the sanitary fund. Quiet reigned at home, and our people were free from all apprehension of danger until they were suddenly disturbed by another advance of the enemy across the Potomac.

After terrible battles and frightful slaughter, General Grant, about the first of July, 1864, sat down before Petersburg to commence the siege of the enemy's works, and the slow, but sure advance to Richmond. But while he was there with his great army, the country was startled by another invasion of Maryland, by Ewell's army, and siege laid to Washington, the enemy's cannon shaking the very capitol. After the battle of Monocacy, the confederate cavalry overran all eastern Maryland. Harry Gilmore made his famous raid destroying the railroads, and particularly, cutting off communication between Philadelphia and Baltimore. A memorable incident of this raid was the capture and escape of Major General Franklin. On the 11th day of July, when on the train from Baltimore to Philadelphia, he was taken prisoner, but while at Reisterstown, in charge of a guard, he made his escape. Feigning sleep, the guards fell asleep really, when he quietly walked off. After hiding two days in the woods, he met a farmer who befriended him, and with whom he

took refuge until it was time to make his way further.

There was witnessed, in the month of July, 1864, again the distressing sight of refugees fleeing through our streets in charge of horses and cattle. The proximity of the enemy occasioned great alarm. There was a call by the Governor for 24,000 men to serve for one hundred days. Five companies were formed in York for home protection, and public meetings were called to provide bounties for volunteers. The stores were closed, and business generally suspended.

On the 30th of July, the awful news was received of the burning of the town of Chambersburg. Three hundred and fifty houses were burned and all the public buildings. A public meeting for the relief of the sufferers was called and several thousand dollars were raised for that purpose in York. The enemy retiring relieved us from further apprehension.

Of the hundred days men, the 194th regiment had  
194th men from York county. It was put on duty  
P. V. in and near Baltimore, on the lines of the  
railroads, on provost duty and as guard to prisoners.

Early in 1864 a draft was ordered for 500,000 men, unless forthcoming by volunteers, and for some districts a draft was made on the 6th of June. On the 18th of July there was a call for 500,000 volunteers. This call, after the already exhausting drafts, roused a class of citizens, who, determined to volunteer themselves, and fill the quotas, organized companies, and became attached to regiments, which, although put into service late in the war, acquired the distinction of veterans.

The 200th regiment was commanded by Colonel Charles W. Diven, formerly major of the 200th P. V. 12th Reserves. It was organized on the 3d of September, 1864. The companies, formed in York, attached to this regiment, were, company A, Adam Reisinger, John Wimer, captains, Wm. F. Reisinger, Edward Smith, Jere Oliver, lieutenants; company D, William H. Duhling, captain, Martin L. Duhling and William H. Drayer, lieutenants; company H, Jacob Wiest, captain, James M'Comas and William H. Smyser, lieutenants; company K, Hamilton A. Glessner, captain, George I. Spangler, Augustus C. Steig and Zachariah S. Shaw, lieutenants.

At the time of the formation of the companies just mentioned, a company was raised in York by 207th P. V. Captain Lewis Small, lieutenants, Richard C. Ivory and William L. Keagle. This company was attached, at Harrisburg, to the 207th regiment as company E.

Two other companies from York county were also then formed, one by Captain Henry W. 209th P. V. Spangler, lieutenants, Thomas J. Hendricks, William Douglas and William B. Morrow; the other by Captain John Klugh, lieutenants George W. Heiges and Henry L. Arnold, and were attached to the 209th regiment as companies B. and I.

These three regiments, organized about the same time, were immediately ordered to the front, and placed in the Army of the James, and were employed in active duty until the 24th of November, when they were transferred to the Army of the Potomac, and

placed in the division of General Hartranft, 9th corps. They performed fatigue duty and were thoroughly drilled during the winter, and were engaged in several raids at Bermuda Hundred, Jerusalem Plank Road and Hatcher's Run, and at the opening of the spring campaign they were engaged in one of the most brilliant achievements of the war. Fort Steadman was, by a surprise, captured by the enemy. Hartranft had six Pennsylvania regiments, including these three, and determined to lead his command at once to the assault—Colonel Diven, commanding the 1st brigade. About daylight, on Saturday morning, the 25th of March, after three several assaults, under very heavy fire, the fort was retaken. The 200th led the assault, supported by the 209th. The 200th received particular mention in General Hartranft's report:—"It was put to the severest test, and behaved with great firmness and steadiness." And he congratulated all the men and officers of his command "for their gallant and heroic conduct," that they had "won a name and reputation of which veterans ought to feel proud."

On the 2d of April, the division was again formed for assault in front of Fort Sedgewick, in the capture of which the men and officers behaved with great gallantry and coolness. Sergeant Michael Harman, of company E, 207th, was killed in this assault. The color sergeant of the regiment, Geo. J. Horning, fell pierced with seven balls, when Sergt. Chas. J. Ilgenfritz sprang forward and raised the colors, and the men rushed over the works and the colors were planted

on the fort. The regiments advanced to the city of Petersburg, which was by this time abandoned, and continued in pursuit of the enemy until the surrender of Lee, and in May they were mustered out.

A company was raised in York by Captain Emanuel Herman, in the early part of 1865, Emanuel Rutter, 1st lieutenant, and Charles W. P. Collins, 2nd lieutenant. This company was attached, with seven other companies, to the 103rd veteran regiment, which had been reduced to eighty-one men. It was on duty in North Carolina, until the 25th of June, 1865, when it was mustered out at Newbern.

Soldiers from York and York county, volunteered in other Pennsylvania regiments, besides those mentioned, and also in regiments of other states, and where, in some cases, they had become residents.— Henry J. Test, who had been a member of the Worth Infantry, in the three month's service, volunteered in the 79th P. V. (Colonel Hambright's regiment, of Lancaster county,) became a lieutenant in company B, and was killed at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, on the 8th of October, 1862. The 7th Iowa regiment was commanded by Colonel Jacob Lauman, afterwards Brigadier General, who was with General Grant in the west, at Belmont, Pittsburg Landing and Fort Donelson. At this last named place, Captain Jonathan S. Slaymaker, of the 2nd Iowa, fell while leading his company in the assault. Corporal David Hays, of the 13th Indiana, a soldier of the Mexican war, distinguished himself in a desperate hand to hand encounter with the rebels in Western Virginia.—

Many others might be mentioned whose names cannot be recalled for this sketch, one object of which is to suggest the completion of that history of which it is but an outline.

Thus from the ordinary life of the citizen, from the farm, the workshop, the counting room and the office, our men left their business and homes, at the call of their country, and formed a part of that great body of volunteers, which constituted, with the regular army as a nucleus, the military power of the nation, and furnished their full share towards the preservation of the American Union. The Army officers are chiefly graduates of the Military Academy. These in many instances, during the war, retaining their rank in the line, became general officers of volunteers. The West Point graduates from York attained conspicuous positions in the service. William B. Franklin was major general by brevet, and major general of volunteers; Horatio Gates Gibson, major, 3d artillery, was colonel of 2d Ohio Heavy Artillery and brevet brigadier general of volunteers. On the staff, Edmund Shriver was Inspector General of the army of the United States and brevet major general; Michael P. Small, colonel, commissary department, and brevet brigadier general. Of those appointed from civil life were Major Granville O. Haller, 7th infantry; Captain Walter S. Franklin, 12th infantry, brevet major and on the staff with the rank of lieutenant colonel; Captain Theodore D. Cochran, of the 13th infantry; Captain Charles Garretson, of the

17th infantry; Lieutenant George W. H. Stouch, 3d infantry, and Lieutenant Jacob L. Stouch, 12th infantry.

The brilliant achievements of the navy reflected luster upon the national escutcheon, and to that branch of the service is due one half of the conquest of the rebellion. Graduates of the Naval Academy, from this place, Commanders Clarke H. Wells, Samuel R. Franklin and William Gibson, participated in the great naval engagements of the war, and experienced on the iron clads, in blockade, bombardment, and battle, in Charleston Harbor and on the James and Mississippi and elsewhere, much perilous and arduous service; and volunteers from the borough and county of York, were to be found among the gallant crews and officers of Union vessels.

The city of Richmond was deserted on Sunday, the 2d of April, 1865, by the confederate government and by the army that for a year had so fiercely defended it. The first Union troops who entered it found it abandoned, and in flames. The fall of Richmond was celebrated in York, on the 8th of April, by a procession—business was suspended and at night there was an illumination. On the 9th of April, General Lee surrendered the confederate army of Northern Virginia to General Grant, and on the 26th of April General Johnston surrendered the Confederate States Army in North Carolina, to General Sherman.—Peace was soon after proclaimed, and “the cruel war was over.”

But while these concluding events of the greatest



of civil wars were enacting, the startling intelligence of the assassination of President Lincoln plunged the nation into the deepest mourning. On the 21st of April, almost every resident of York repaired to the railroad, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of the lamented chief magistrate. The military and citizens in procession were placed in line, and the funeral cortege, amid the tolling of bells and firing of minute guns, passed through lines of citizens who stood with uncovered heads. A floral tribute was laid upon his coffin by the ladies of York. It consisted of a beautiful wreath of rare flowers encircling the national shield. The field was made of blue violets, with myrtle representing the stars, the bars were made alternately of white and red verbena. Thus passed the last sad pageant of a most painful, but eventful period in the history of our nation.

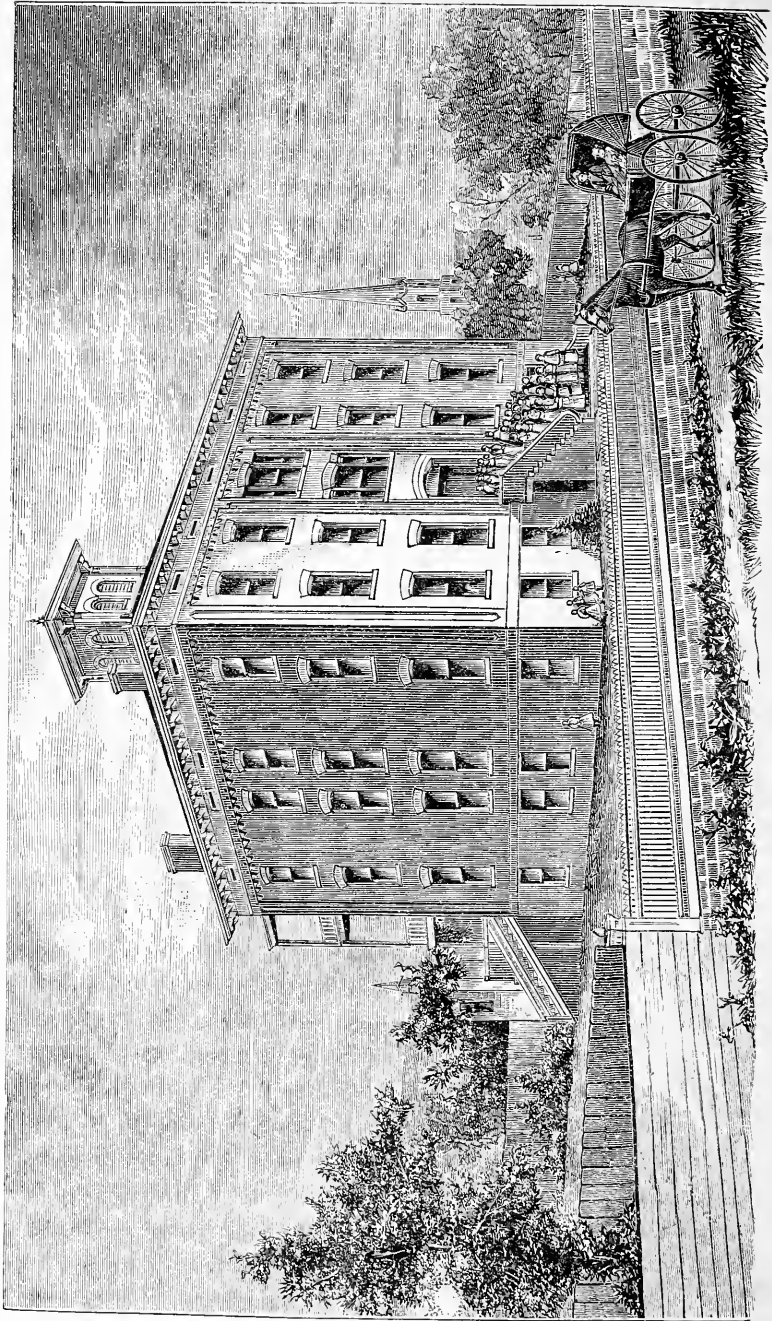
One interesting result of the war was the establishment of Orphans' Homes for friendless children and those of soldiers who had died in defence of their country. For this purpose legislative appropriations were made. The Childrens' Home of York was incorporated by the legislature, February 2d, 1865, for the laudable and benevolent purpose of educating and providing for friendless and destitute children, distinct from the state provision for soldiers' orphans; though it was proposed to send to it those belonging to the county. A house was rented on the first of May, 1865, and on the 18th of the same month, the first family of soldiers' orphans was admitted. The youngest child was supported by

the institution until it reached the age which entitled it to the state provision. During the first two years, on account of limited accommodations, but thirty-one wards of the state were admitted—all very young. The large and commodious building of the "Children's Home," was first occupied on the first of April, 1867. This building was erected on ground donated by Mr. Samuel Small, and under his direction and principally at his expense, aided also by contributions from the late Charles A. Morris. Since then soldiers' children have been assigned to the home from York, Adams, Dauphin and Cumberland counties, and seventy-six have shared its fostering care. Some of the boys have been transferred to White Hall and elsewhere, each year, at the age of twelve or thirteen years; but the girls have generally been retained in the Home, where several have graduated with honor. Some have entered normal schools. In mental training, deportment, skill in needle work, and in household duties, these girls compare favorably with those in any of our schools. Four excellent physicians give their services free of charge to the institution. A remarkable fact has been noted, that in this family of from sixty to sixty-five persons, no death has ever occurred, and very little severe illness. There are at present in the home thirty-one soldiers' orphans.

In the great public measure of the Common School system, from its rude beginning, the development has been great, until now to-day, no better organized or managed school control, than the boards of this borough and county, can be found.

Common  
Schools.





CHILDREN'S HOME, YORK.

[From Paul's Pennsylvania's Soldiers' Orphan Schools.]

Under the school law it was first left to the districts to accept or reject its provisions. In 1835, the Borough of York, Hanover, Lower Chanceford, Peach Bottom, Chanceford and Fairview accepted the provisions of the school law. The next year, 1836, Springfield, Fawn, Windsor, Shrewsbury, Carrol, Warrington, Hellam, Hopewell, Monaghan and Newberry accepted. An inherited love of freedom or hatred of compulsion caused some of our people, for a time, to resist the school law; but in 1848, the legislature declared that the common school system shall be held to be adopted by the several school districts. The office of county superintendent, created in 1854, has been of great benefit to the cause of education in York county. The usefulness of the office has been appreciated, and able and competent gentlemen have been elected to fill it, at a liberal salary. The county superintendents have been Hon. Jacob Kirk, G. Christopher Stair, Dr. A. R. Blair, Samuel B. Heiges, Stephen G. Boyd, William H. Kain.

The High School was established in this borough in 1870, by the authority of the Board of High School. Controllers. This school is of the same standard as such schools elsewhere, and is modeled somewhat after that of the High School of Philadelphia, and others of the best schools of the country. The courses of study are English, with modern languages, and also with the classics and the higher mathematics. The advance of grade since its organization is ten per cent annually. There is promotion to this school from the grammar school

grades. Promotion is regular in the system, from lower to higher, on examination by the superintendent, and accurate records are kept of each pupil's standing, from entrance into the public school, through each step of promotion, until he enters the High School and graduates. It commenced with two teachers and about sixty pupils, and has now three teachers, and had eighty-five pupils in attendance last year. Prof. W. H. Shelly has been the principal and superintendent from the organization—a teacher and organizer of more than ordinary ability.

In matters of private enterprise regarding the interests of education, there are several institutions of celebrity. The York County Academy has already been mentioned and its history noticed. This school, now in its eighty-eighth academic year, is one of the best schools in the state, under the charge of Professor G. W. Ruby, who succeeded Rev. Stephen Boyer, twenty-seven years ago.

A school for young ladies, entitled Cottage Hill College, has been in existence for many years, under different professors, with great success, which, in 1868, was incorporated by the legislature, under that name. The chartered institution ceased a few years ago, but the school is now conducted under new management. This college is beautifully situated on the Codorus, opposite the borough, on a tract of several acres, with springs, and a stream of pure water running through it. It is fitted with arbors, gardens, fruit and ornamental trees. The cottage in which the school is maintain-

ed, is a building of four stories in height, nearly a hundred feet in length, and fifty in width, with large school rooms and commodious dormitories, and an observatory. This is a well known educational institution under the charge of efficient teachers.

The York Collegiate Institute was founded by Mr. Samuel Small, in 1873. On the 14th of April, Collegiate Institute. in that year, at a meeting held in the chapel of the Presbyterian Church in York, Mr. Small presented a paper containing his plan for the foundation of a public Literary and Religious Institution in this community, and naming trustees for the same. The endowment of this institution was a cherished idea of his, "being deeply impressed with the importance of increasing popular facilities for intellectual and moral culture, and especially solicitous for the christian education of youth—to lay the foundation of an enterprise for affording instruction, not only in the ordinary branches of literature and science, but also and especially, in regard to the great end and business of life."

The Institute was incorporated on the 27th of August, 1873, and was inaugurated with appropriate and interesting ceremonies, on Monday, the third of November, 1873, in the presence of the Westminster Presbytery, the trustees of the Institute, and a large number of citizens of York and adjoining cities. The building had been commenced two years previously and had been carried forward to completion under the immediate direction of its Founder.

The Rev. James McDougal, of Long Island, was

elected President of the Institute, and Mr. Samuel B. Heiges, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science. The York Collegiate Institute has been eminently successful, and is a literary and scientific school of high grade.

In all branches of education there has been enterprise manifested by citizens of York. As early <sup>Com.</sup> as 1853, the Pennsylvania Commercial <sup>College.</sup> College was established by T. Kirk White, which was incorporated in 1856. This is the only school of the kind incorporated in Pennsylvania, and was in successful operation until the breaking out of the war. Similar schools for business training have, from time to time, been instituted, and an Actual Business College is now established in the same building.

It has been usual in histories of counties to give <sup>Dr Fred'k</sup> descriptive accounts of its natural history, <sup>Melsheimer</sup> and the science of one branch of that knowledge has been considered of great importance on account of its relation to agriculture. It is not within the province of this sketch to do so, but in order to illustrate our progress, those who have contributed to knowledge in this respect deserve especial notice. Men distinguished in any branch of science are rare. On the tenth of March, 1873, there died, in Dover township, in this county, though scarcely known to this generation, Dr. Frederick Ernest Melsheimer, aged about ninety one years. He was born at Hanover, York county, on the 20th of April, 1782, graduated in Baltimore in 1814, and first practised his profession at East Berlin, Adams county, then moved



to York county, where he continued the practice of medicine until almost the last days of his earthly career. In his early days he turned his powers of mind to that interesting branch of natural history, Entomology, which was then in its infancy yet, in the United States. This science he cultivated more, it may safely be said, than any other man in America. Men celebrated as naturalists, as Rev. John Morris, D. D., of Baltimore, acknowledged that he was the Father of Entomology, in Pennsylvania, if not in the United States. In the year 1842, the Entomological Society of Pennsylvania was formed, and Dr. Melsheimer was elected President of it in 1853. He prepared and completed a work on Insects (Coleoptera) in the United States, especially of practical importance to the agriculturalists, which was published shortly after by the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. He held correspondence with many European, as well as American scientists, and consequently, his name was known in Europe among the great naturalists. Papers left by him show that he received many *honors* from his Fatherland, whence his father, who was also a naturalist, came. We may never know or properly appreciate the patient labors, or their importance to practical science, of the life work of this remarkable man, who should hold a high place among the worthies of the past century which his term of life nearly filled.

Of late years public improvements have notably increased. The Peach Bottom Railway company was incorporated in the year 1868.

Public  
Improvements.

This being a narrow gauge road, it has, from its novelty of construction, been an interesting feature of public enterprise. It has gone on steadily to completion, by the energy of the men who have controlled it, under some difficulties, and was opened on the 16th of April, in the present year, to Delta, in the extreme lower end of the county, a distance of thirty-six miles—the seat of extensive and valuable slate quarries; the road opening facilities for business and travel much needed for that section of country. The only commercial avenue hitherto being the Susquehanna canal. This road will be extended across the Susquehanna, through Lancaster and Chester counties, where it is already partially completed.

In the upper end of the county, the Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg Railroad was finished between those places in 1872, a distance of about seven miles. The company was organized on the first of November, 1871, under the general railroad law of the commonwealth. The Harrisburg and Potomac Railroad, connecting with the Cumberland Valley Railroad, runs through a portion of the upper end of the county, and within a mile of Dillsburg grading is now in progress to extend the road to Petersburg, Adams county, and ultimately to the Potomac.

The Hanover and York Railroad company was incorporated in 1873, and within two years the railroad was completed, a distance of eighteen miles—the first train being run on the 29th of May, 1875. This road, known as the “short line,” forms a part of the Frederick division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with

the Wrightsville Branch, formerly the Wrightsville, York and Gettysburg Railroad, which was completed between York and the Susquehanna river in April, 1840.

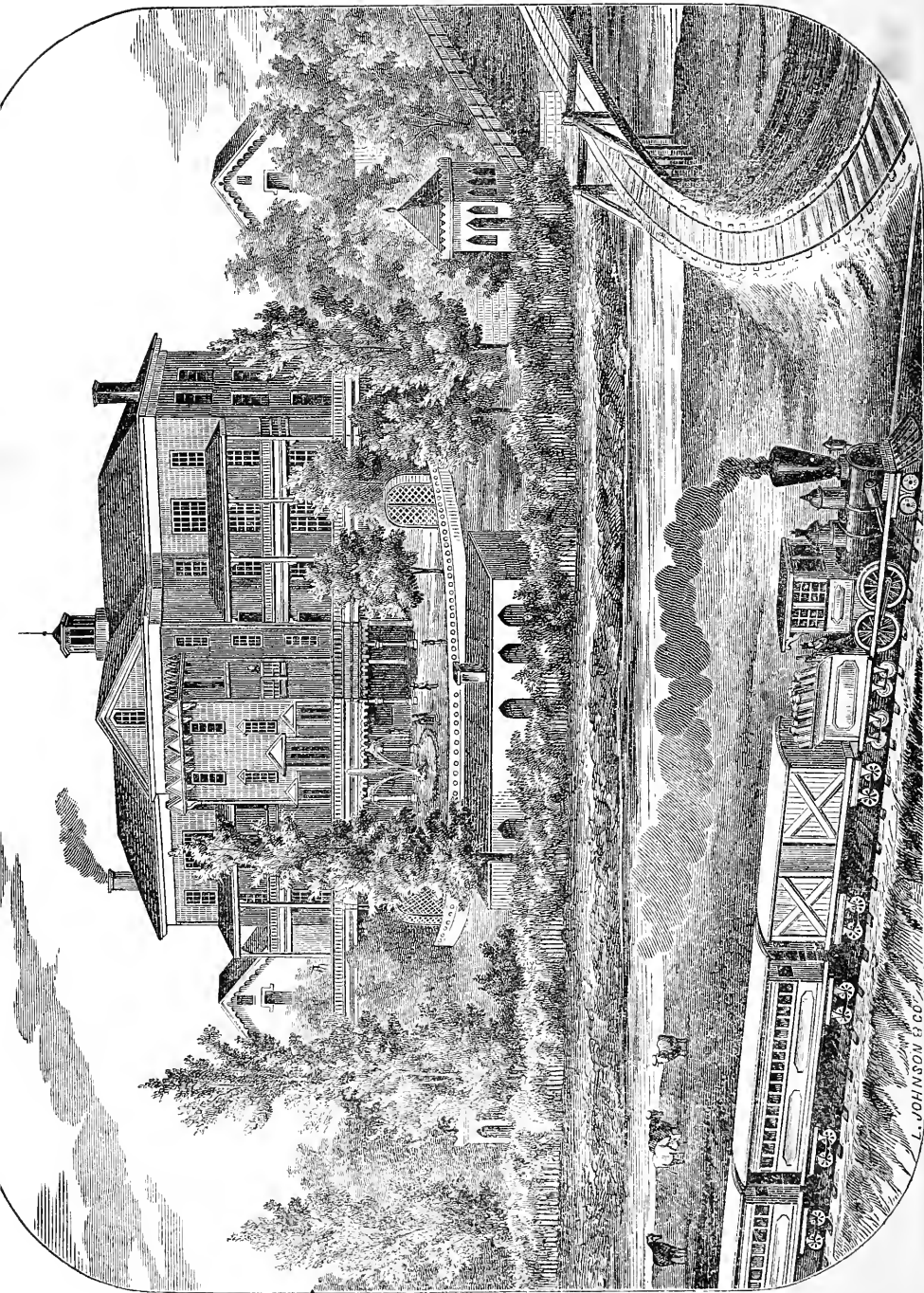
The Borough of Hanover has kept pace with the progress of improvements. Gas was furnished to its people in December, 1870, and water in December, 1873, by incorporated joint stock companies. Hanover is the oldest borough in the county outside of York, having been incorporated in 1815. The other oldest boroughs are, Lewisberry, incorporated 1832, Dillsburg, 1833, Shrewsbury and Wrightsville, 1834. There are now nineteen boroughs in the county, nearly all prominent and wealthy centres of trade and business—many unincorporated towns, and thirty townships.

York is distinguished for the excellence of its public buildings. Many of the churches are of architectural beauty, and the school houses are handsomely built with all modern improvements. The county buildings are model structures. The court house, with its granite front and Corinthian pillars, already mentioned, forms a prominent feature in the main avenue of the borough. A new prison was erected in 1855, at a cost of \$62,950.76 under the superintendence of Edward Haviland, Esq., architect. It is in the Norman style, built of stone, front and facings of Conewago brown sand stone, with turrets and a lofty tower. The interior arrangements are after the plan of the Eastern penitentiary at Philadelphia. This building was erected with a view to the labor as well

as confinement of prisoners. The old jail stood on the north-east corner of George and King streets, a stone building of two stories, and windows barred with iron, erected about 1756, when the old court house was built. It was removed in 1861. A new hospital was built in 1858, at a cost of \$48,661 63. A large and commodious structure surrounded by a large yard, with shade trees and mounds of flowers. The building presenting a fine appearance, which attracts the eyes of travelers approaching the town by the railways.

The system established in York county for the care and support of the poor, has been in existence since the year 1804, with some improvements, under the control of a board of directors, one of whom is annually elected by the people. They were incorporated on the 6th of February, 1804, under the style of "The Directors of the Poor and House of Employment for the county of York"—the act authorizing the erecting of a house for the employment and support of the poor of the county. This most important branch of the government of every municipality very early received attention. Originally, on the formation of the county, under the general laws of the commonwealth, modeled after the English Poor Laws, overseers were appointed for each township. It seems that in some instances paupers were kept in the county jail.—When the new system was established, a tract of land known as the Elm Spring farm, of about hundred and thirty-three acres, was purchased, then said to be within a mile of the borough, and another tract of





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about one hundred and fifty-nine acres. The price paid for the land was five thousand pounds. A poor house was erected in 1805, and the poor removed to it from all parts of the county. This building, enlarged and with an additional story, is the present county alms house. A hospital was built in 1827, of brick, two stories in height, a part of which was used in the erection of the present handsome edifice.

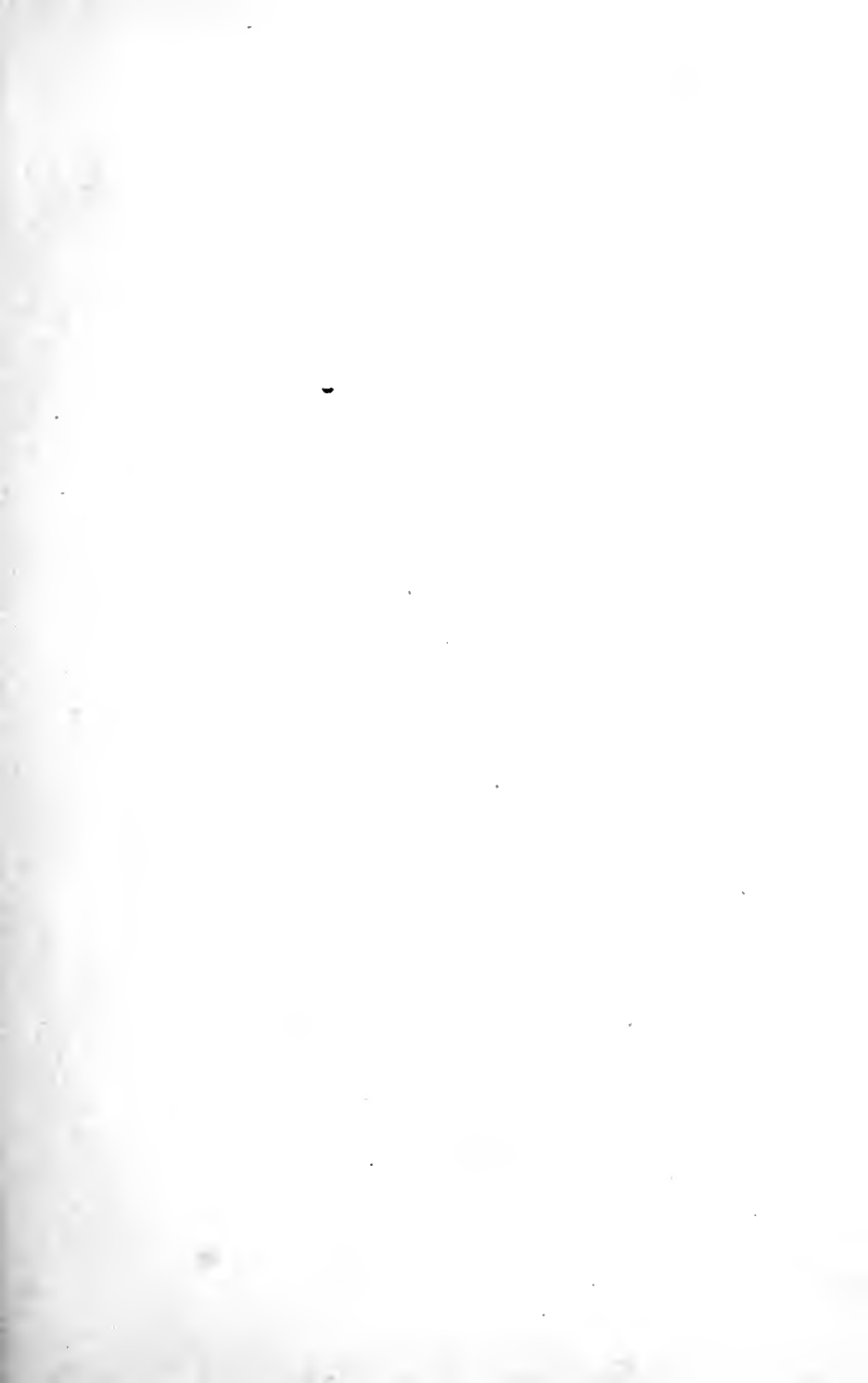
York is not behind any American town in enterprise. Its growth has been natural and steady, not factitious. To the intelligence and industry of the citizens of the county, is due its prosperity. Our farmers are the equal of any—the county one of the richest. At the last census there were 411,341 acres of land under cultivation, estimated at a cash value of \$36,358,484, with an annual yield of produce, in the article of wheat alone of 1,129,750 bushels, and other produce in proportion. Its manufactories, of agricultural implements, paper, cars, machinery, and of almost all articles that could be mentioned, number over eleven hundred, with an aggregate capital of about \$3,250,000.

It has extensive quarries of slate and limestone and sandstone, and ore banks, some of which yield iron of the finest quality. But the mineral wealth of the county is as yet undeveloped. Very early in its history iron ore was discovered, and furnaces and forges were erected, some of which date before the Revolution. The discovery of the immense deposits of anthracite coal in the Lehigh Valley, and particularly of its use in the reduction of ores, drew to that region

the manufacture of iron ; but increasing mechanical facilities, will tend more fully to develop our resources, and place this county upon a high pinnacle of material prosperity.

York county has now on exhibition at the great Centennial Exposition, at Philadelphia, many evidences of the skill of her workmen and of the genius of her mechanics. It takes its part in the celebration of this momentous anniversary with a proud record, and few communities can more acceptably welcome the fourth of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.







# OUR ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTH-DAY.

BY E. NORMAN GUNNISON.

Thank God ! At last the land is peace,  
A century blossoms here to-day,  
A hundred years brings its increase  
Before the nation's feet to lay,  
Outswept upon the summer air  
The flag of stars above us flies.  
The guerdon of a nation's prayer,  
The light of glad, immortal eyes.

And bending from their home above,  
The patriot sires of patriot sons  
May see the banner of their love,  
And hear the anthem of the guns  
Which usher in thy day of birth.  
Thy natal day, O glorious land !  
God keep thee, sacred spot of earth,  
Within the hollow of His hand.

Not vainly were thy battles fought,  
On every hill, in every glen,  
To-day, we see what God hath wrought  
And wrote upon the hearts of men.  
To-day before our eyes may wave  
Unstained by wrong, unsoiled by tears,  
The glorious banner of the brave,  
To crown a nation's hundred years.

The flag the patriot fathers bore,  
A cloud by day, by night a flame,  
Still journeying ever on before  
And followed by a nation's fame ;  
A new born nation then, but now  
Its birth pangs o'er, its perils past,  
With glory written on its brow,  
And union, circling it at last.

O gallant men, who fought and bled,  
And sleep to-day in freedom's soil,  
The nation's honored, glorious dead,  
Sweet be your rest from strife and toil.  
As looking from your home on high  
Ye see the gift your toil has given,  
It seems as each immortal eye  
Grows brighter with the light of heaven.

Illustrious shades; to-day return,  
This birth-day dimmed with no alloy ;  
And here, where freedom's watch-fires burn,  
Rejoice with an exceeding joy !  
Your phantom ranks are on each plain,  
Your phantom files are with us still,  
Your phantom tents are pitched again  
From Yorktown, back to Bunker Hill.

Your bare-feet track the snow-clad sod,  
By Princeton's plain, by Valley Forge,  
Striking for right, ye worship God,  
In tented field, and mountain gorge.  
For ye are freedom's every one,

Ye may not die, our deathless dead ;  
Wherever sleeps a patriot son  
The tears of heaven are o'er him shed.

Rejoice with us, upon the blast  
Our flag floats out from sea to sea,  
Our land's first century is past,  
And we are still a people free.  
Far as our wide dominions sweep,  
Across our valleys, and our plains,  
No bondman at his task may weep,  
No ear may catch the clank of chains.

All men are free—the black and white,  
And as the circling seasons roll  
All men are equal in his sight,  
Who colors not a human soul.  
This be our boast, as here to day  
We see the stars above us shine,  
And pause our offerings to pay  
A sacred debt at freedom's shrine.

A sacred debt one hundred years,  
No doubts annoy, no cares obtrude,  
The shadow of no coming fears  
Shall cloud to-day our gratitude.  
He made us free, His hand shall keep,  
And firmly through the cycles hold.  
He is the shepherd, we the sheep  
That He has folded in His fold.

O cannon roar ! O flags stream out,  
Ring on the air a nation's cheers ;

Shout, 'tis thy birth-day—Freedom, shout!

The fullness of a hundred years.

Usher the century that comes,

Th' undying years, so close at hand

Sound forth the trumpets, and the drums,

And bid them welcome to the land.

Here shall the Old world's children seek,

And find, a shelter from their woes ;

And in our valleys, cheek by cheek,

The lion and the lamb repose.

And He shall lead them ; for his peace

Forever rests upon the land ;

The marvel of its grand increase

Is but the movement of His hand.

Land of our love, to-day each heart

Which burns anew with fond desire,

Is but an altar set apart

And flaming with thy sacred fire.

The fire of freedom, burning bright,

Enkindled by the father's hand,

A beacon, through the darkest night

To light the glories of the land.

Land of our love, God's circling arm

Enfold and guard thee in thy way,

His blessing shelter thee from harm,

And keep thee glorious, as to-day.

Before the century's coming hours

Thy cities spring, nor ever cease :

Thy blossoms ripen into flowers,

And crown thee with perpetual peace.

# THE ORATION.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

There is to a certain extent, a sameness and not unfrequently a studied formality in the annual celebrations of our country's independence. We have the usual complement of stars and stripes, music and banners, and occasionally a booming cannon to fill up the programme, but the spirit of the day, its deep and searching memories, its connection with the past, the present and future, and its influence upon the destiny of men and of nations, in all time to come, are seldom made the subject of that calm deliberation which their importance demands.

The fourth of July seventeen hundred and seventy six was the commencement of a new era, in the history of the world. It was the starting point in the great struggle between liberty and despotism. Let no one charge the fathers of our revolution with that narrow, selfish and contracted spirit which would have confined the results and advantages of their achievements to a community of scattered colonies or an assembly of thirteen states. Their aim was higher, broader and more comprehensive than this. They embraced in their conceptions, the associated interests of mankind and the benefit of the world at large. Hence the emphatic language of their declaration that "all men are born free and equal and are endow-

ed with certain inalienable rights among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Less than this could not satisfy the demands of their patriotism and more than this they sought not to exact, either in the deliberations of the council chamber or amid the thunders of battle. The times in which they lived were auspicious for a demonstration in favor of liberty, and the men and the patriotism were there to support the enterprise. The star had risen in their horizon which was to be the guide to a political redemption and under its genial rays the superiority of man's right to self government was to be supported and maintained. That star arose with the first dawning of our revolution, and it continued to shine, with an undiminished lustre, until the termination of it, and to those who toiled and struggled in their country's service, it was the star of hope and promise, encouraging them in their hours of gloom and despondency and lending additional life and spirit in the days of their victory and rejoicing. Just as the star of Bethlehem shone over the manger, where was born the leader of a great moral revolution, which was destined to crush the powers of darkness and redeem the world, so the genius of our independence springing up, as it were, in the depths of the untrodden wilderness, breathed its redeeming spirit upon the land, and lending its radiance to the great moral light which had culminated to its zenith, blended the power of political and religious glory in asserting the liberty of the human soul.

The signers of the declaration of American inde-



pendence belong to a generation which is past and gone. The last of that gallant assembly has long since slept with his fathers. There is nothing that survives them now but the memory of their heroic deeds and the splendid system of government they labored to establish. I would never weary in my contemplation of the virtues of these men, and had I a life time to expend for no other purpose, the study of their history and patriotism would amply compensate me for my toil.

They were men of no ordinary mould. The records of other countries are full of examples of self-sacrifice and devotion to chosen and favorite objects. Men have languished in the dungeon and burned at the stake to accomplish some purpose of wild ambition, or to subserve the designs of mistaken zeal or misguided fanaticism. Others for similar purposes, have bared their bosoms to the storms of battle and rushed madly to a doom they could not avert ; but never, not even in the palmy days of the Roman and Grecian republics, was there brought together a brotherhood more undivided, less moved by selfish feelings and more earnestly devoted to the great cause they had espoused. They were not only contributors in the ordinary sense, to the cause of freedom, but their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor were thrown into the treasury.

And the character of these men may be said, at least, to have been equal to the great and magnificent sacrifices which they made. Their personal position was no less proud than their patriotism was pure and

attractive. There was the learned and classic Adams, the generous and accomplished Hancock, the venerable Stephen Hopkins, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the fiery and impulsive mechanic and farmer hero, Roger Sherman, the patriotic and noble minded Thomas Jefferson, the enterprising and dauntless George Taylor, the warm hearted, but over sensitive Button Guinnette, Hall, Walton, Rutledge, Rush and Livingstone, and their noble compatriots, not forgetting him of our own beloved commonwealth, who spoke to the thunder and the lightning and they fell harmless at his feet. Had the patriotic enterprise of these signers failed and their lives been forfeited, it would have been the saddest and most painful incident in all human history. It would have been one over which not only men but angels would have wept.

But there was an unseen divinity that presided over their deliberations. Their trust was not alone in the power and potency of human skill and endurance. They had confidence in a higher and more enduring dependence. Uniting the justice of their cause with a firm reliance upon *Divine Providence*, they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What power on earth could withstand a co-operation such as that? *If God be for us, who can be against us?*

It was the weak arm of a single commander, clothed with his potent authority from their burning bush, that led the Israelites through their long and perilous journey to the borders of their promised land; and it was the same authority, derived from the same in-

visible source that brought the men of the revolution, step by step, from the first skirmish at Bunker's Hill to the achievement of the Canaan of their hopes and expectations in the proud and final victory on the plains of Yorktown.

It would be difficult to arrive at any other conclusion than that our fathers, in their struggle for independence, were sustained by a power such as this.— Take a few instances in our early wars and the history of our revolution. For what purpose was George Washington so miraculously preserved even long before he had unsheathed his sword in defence of American liberty? For example, in the French and Indian war, when the Indian whose rifle never failed him before, fired seventeen fair shots at his body and yet, he who afterward became the leader of our armies escaped unhurt. And then again, during the darkest period of our revolution, when hope had almost died out, that same Washington, piloted his entire force across the river Delaware, in the midst of a furious and pelting snow storm, and amid huge masses of floating ice, and yet landed them safely on the other side and without the loss of a single man. What particular providence was it, think you, on that occasion that sat at the helm and guided the frail craft in the face of the blinding tempest?

¶ It certainly was no meaningless utterance of words when our fathers embodied in their declaration of independence, "with a firm reliance upon Divine Providence we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." If this be not so, then from whence

came the supernatural fire that warmed the breasts of our suffering soldiers, when, on the march to Trenton, they left the marks of their bleeding feet upon the frozen ground? And what spirit was it that sustained them, when starved with an insufficient supply of food and clothing, they languished through the long winter days and nights among the snow drifts at Valley Forge? What unseen and invisible divinity was it that protected the brave Putnam in his equestrian flight down the rocky ledges that furnished him the only means of escape, or threw its impenetrable shield before the intrepid Wayne, when in the very front of the belching cannon, charged with grape and cannister, he snatched the sword from the hand of his unresisting adversary and broke it unceremoniously over his head? Surely, in these remarkable incidents, we see something of the wisdom displayed by our fathers, when, instead of relying upon their own unaided strength, they sought the protection and anchored all their hopes upon the God of battle.

The causes which led the American revolution are matters of history, with which the most of you are familiar. They did not consist of a single outrage, but a multitude of them, oft repeated, until forbearance ceased to be a virtue and the wronged and insulted colonists were driven to resistance. Those outrages are beautifully and forcibly set forth in that Declaration which we have heard read to day. To relieve themselves of these oppressions, it was not the design of our fathers to foster a spirit of hostility,

towards the mother country or to rush recklessly into a bloody and unequal war. The measures they employed, at first, were conciliatory and persuasive. But their petitions were disregarded and their appeals treated with sovereign contempt

They felt themselves unequal to the task of commencing and prosecuting hostilities against the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. They were but few in numbers and but poorly provided with the means of a successful campaign. A million and a half of men, scattered over a vast expanse of territory, unacquainted with the discipline of battle and the arts and the intrigues of war, were to be placed in competition with the well trained and experienced armies of the mother and conqueror of nations. No wonder that they hesitated, considered and deliberated before they struck the final blow.

The spirit of the revolution was alive long before the flames of battle had burst forth. The fire had moved in the bosom of the volcano long before the boiling lava had spread itself over the land. The battles of Lexington and of Concord had both been fought before the colonists declared themselves free. Boston was the scene of patriotic commotion and decided resistance to British oppression at least a twelve-month before Congress sent forth its unchangeable decree in favor of independence. The fire which British arrogance had fostered in the bosom of the body politic, was slowly, but surely consuming every vestige of loyalty in the men of that day, years before the sword was unsheathed from its scabbard,

and the cannon planted under the broad banner of *liberty or death*. And when, at length, after years of patient endurance, the clouds of war began to gather, the lightning to gleam, the thunder to roll and the ghosts of deadly conflict to stride through the land, every heart among that little band of patriots beat in unison, every lip shouted the same war cry and every tongue spoke the same deep, pervading sentiment—“*liberty or death*.”

In the year 1775, above twelve months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted, George Washington was unanimously chosen by the Continental Congress, Commander in Chief of the American armies. It may seem strange that surrounded as they were, at that time, by men of years and experience, of irreproachable bravery and pure moral virtue, who ranked among the first in the country; when Massachusetts could boast of such men as John and Samuel Adams and that arch rebel, as he was called, John Hancock, that the choice should fall upon George Washington, a citizen of a State, not then immediately, connected with the active interest of the conflict. But such was the confidence reposed in him that he was elected, without a dissenting voice, to lead the armies of the country, at a time when all the skill, judgment, wisdom, prudence and foresight, which the human mind is capable of commanding, were necessary for the emergency. And it was not long, after, until the wisdom of the choice began to manifest itself. Having arranged his private affairs and taken a formal and affectionate far-

well of his family, he leaves them with these most extraordinary directions, "Let the hospitality of the house, with respect to the poor, be kept up. Let no one go away hungry. If any of this kind of people should be in need of corn, supply their necessities, provided it does not encourage them to idleness; and I have no objection to your giving my money in charity, to the amount of forty or fifty pounds a year, when you think it well bestowed. What I mean by having objections, is that it is my desire that it should be done." Washington would accept of no salary for his services. They were given without money and without price. All that he could be prevailed upon to receive was the amount of his expenses—beyond that he would not go.

There probably never was an important era in the history of any nation, which did not bring into notoriety an equally important personage, who attracted much more than an ordinary share of public attention. And in this particular Washington was *the* man of the revolution. Others were, perhaps, equally brave and skillful, willing to endure privations and encounter danger in the discharge of duty; but Washington seemed to hold in his hand the magic wand by which our armies were directed in the path of victory and triumph. Whether it was upon the plains of Monmouth, stern and determined, riding to the front amid a fierce storm of bullets, with his drawn sword, rallying his broken and disordered columns and restoring his army from the panic of an ill-timed retreat, or in the silence of midnight, upon his bend-

ed knees, with the stars looking down upon his unsheltered head, invoking the aid of the Divine power in words of earnest prayer; Washington was the same self-sacrificing patriot, whose heart beat with no other emotion than that of love for his God and for his suffering country. The knowledge of this fact inspired his men with confidence and led them to deeds of noble daring. No throned monarch ever exerted such an influence over any army as he. He was the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night which shielded them alike from the pursuit of the enemy and piloted them safely through the desert and the sea of battle. The magic of his name and presence inspired them with new life and earnestness, and enabled them in the darkest hour of our national struggle, cheerfully to lead the forlorn hope, manfully to mount the breach and gallantly to storm the battery in the very face of death and destruction.

In the darkest days of the Revolution, after our terrible losses at Brandywine, and when the British, under General Howe, had possession of Philadelphia, and when the bloody massacre at Paoli, had struck terror and consternation into almost every heart, Washington remained firm and unshaken and never once lost confidence in our final success. "At this time when a general pardon was offered by the British government, to all who would renew their oath of allegiance, and some of the most prominent and wealthy men of the country, had accepted the terms and gone over to the enemy, Washington stood firm and unmoved amid all those scenes of trial and discour-



agement. He was not to be disheartened by temporary misfortunes or driven from his purpose by threatening storms of adversity. "When his army was thought to be on the verge of annihilation and the whole world regarded American liberty as struggling in the last stage of its existence, he commenced and pursued an offensive warfare against a hitherto victorious army, strong in numbers and confident in its strength, dislodged it from every post it had taken along the Delaware river, relieved Philadelphia from danger and recovered almost the whole province of New Jersey." The glory of these achievements was rendered doubly conspicuous by their immediate effects upon the colonists. The drooping and despondent spirits of the people were aroused. They became inspired with new zeal and energy. The unshaken faith and abiding confidence of their commander rendered him, to them, a great magnetic centre towards which they were drawn by an attraction which they could not resist. The Continental Congress could not have selected a commander for their armies, better suited to the emergencies of the times than he. So far as human skill and ingenuity could be employed in controlling the energies of a struggling people, Washington discharged his arduous and perilous duties faithfully and well.

In thus selecting George Washington from amongst the men of the Revolution, as an object of special consideration, I do not wish to be understood as attempting to detract from the well-earned fame of any of his noble and deathless compatriots. The history

of that great struggle brings into prominence and distinction, other men distinguished alike for their bravery and patriotism. We glory in the achievements of such men as Israel Putnam, Anthony Wayne, Philip Schuyler, Horatio Gates, Johu Sullivan and Nathaniel Green. These, too, have carved their names in the highest niches of fame's bright temple. But there were traits of character which Washington possessed which were never found in any man before, and hence the opinion, well-supported and sustained, that he was raised up, by the Almighty, for the accomplishment of *His* great purpose, in redeeming this land from slavery and planting, side by side, with with the silken banner of the cross, the stars and stripes which are the symbols of our country's glory. From the time the first cannon was fired in defence of American liberty until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis upon the plains of Yorktown, Washington was the same calm, deliberate, brave, enduring patriot; his mighty energies constantly employed in the advancement of the good of the army and in aid of the great cause in which he was engaged.

It is generally conceded that England, in our revolutionary struggle, died hard; that she was badly beaten long before she surrendered. But the loss of so valuable an acquisition as the American colonies led to more than ordinary exertions on her part, and it was only when the last plank had been swept away from her, that she was willing to bend a wounded and bleeding suppliant at our feet. The surrender at Yorktown, was a proud triumph of the American

arms. It was the closing up of a long and tedious struggle, the vindication of the cause we had espoused and a permanent death blow to despotism on this side of the Atlantic. From that day we commenced our existence as a free and independent people, having successfully won that distinction by our treasure and our blood.

I will not trespass upon the time of this audience by referring to the organization of our institutions, the formation of States, the adoption of the Constitution and the passage of laws in harmony with the democratic character of our government. These are objects familiar in history and might at the present time, prove tedious and unprofitable.

One by one, the men of the revolution have gone down to their graves, until all have disappeared behind the impenetrable veil which separates the present from the vast and unexplored future. They have left for us and our children a priceless legacy of freedom, richer, by far, "than apples of gold set in pictures of silver" One hundred years of national existence has given us a prominence among the nations of the earth which is alike proud and enviable. From thirteen original States, we have increased to thirty-eight free and independent sovereignties, blended together in one common bond of union; the great paladium of our liberty and our hope in all time to come. The emblems of our nationality have been hoisted upon every hill-top and float in triumph upon land and sea. Our territory stretches, in its geographical boundaries from the shores of the Atlantic to the

Pacific Ocean. Civilization has achieved some of its proudest triumphs in our midst; religion sports its silken banner in our sky; learning and science have sprung up with the fruits of our soil; agriculture boasts its improvements and the mechanic arts have far exceeded the proudest stretch of ingenious aspiration. Our greatness, as a people, is proverbial throughout the world, and the nations look up to us with wonder and admiration. This is the end of our Revolution. This is the purchase of our fathers' blood. They sowed the seed, but it remained for us to reap the harvest.

We have great reason to be thankful that we are permitted the enjoyment of our liberties in a land like this. Here we are surrounded by everything that is necessary to render its possession sweet and delightful. "Our lines have been cast in pleasant places," and we should be prepared to cultivate no other spirit amongst us but one of common patriotism and common brotherhood. We should remember the virtues of our fathers and adopt them as examples worthy of our imitation. To protect the liberty and honor of our common country should be our constant aim. Demand no more than what is right and submit to nothing that is wrong. Never anxious to provoke an insult, but prepared, at all times, to resist one when offered. We should be a people jealous of our rights and ready at all hazards, to maintain them; for it is only by a strict and faithful observance of these rules that we can consistently celebrate the fourth of July, or invoke, at its annual

occurrence, the spirit and memories of the Revolution.

The people of York county have a special interest in the proper observance of this, our great natal day. We have been particularly fortunate in having in our own midst, monuments and memories of the revolution which can never perish. It was here at York, where the Continental Congress met, for deliberation, when General Howe had possession of the city of Philadelphia. This beautiful town, of which we are so justly proud—the home of your nativity and the home of my adoption; was, at that time, hallowed by the presence and pressed by the footsteps of Geo. Washington and his noble compeers. On the precise spot where now stands the beautiful and substantial residence of our talented townsman, Prof. Samuel B. Heiges, until a few years ago, stood the old building where Washington had his headquarters and where he and his subordinates met from time to time in military counsel; and some of the doors and wainscotting of that old building are still preserved in the new and handsome structure. The timber of which these are composed is, at present, as firm and substantial as it was a hundred years ago. It has suffered nothing seemingly, from the natural decay of time, but like our glorious institutions of which it may be taken as a proper, but silent representative, has grown harder, firmer and more enduring with the marches of the generations, until it has become, substantially, an imperishable memorial of that which it really commemorates.

We need but travel a short Sabbath day's journey north from our borough and enter our beautiful Prospect Hill Cemetery, to find, inside of a handsome iron enclosure, the grave and the monument of Philip Livingstone, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Turning from that point and coming back to the Main street, of our borough, near its eastern extremity, in the old Presbyterian church yard, over which a solitary weeping willow casts its mourning shadows, we come to the mound beneath which sleeps the dust of the venerable James Smith, another signer of that immortal instrument. On his monument we read the inscription, "James Smith, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Aged 93 years." In the quietude of our own homes, surrounded by our families, when the labors of the day are ended, we can turn back the pages of our local history, and there find the liberal contributions which York county gave to the men and the cause of the Revolution. There are those standing before me this evening and within the hearing of my voice, I venture to say, whose grandfathers fell battling for the liberties of our country. Let the stranger then, who visits our borough, be informed that the moment he plants his foot inside of our limits, that he is standing upon holy ground. The genius of liberty, when it commenced its conquests upon American soil, found no nobler champions then those whose names are still perpetuated, in the persons of their children's children throughout the borough and county of York.

The proper observance of this day ought not to be,

therefore, a matter of mere centennial occurrence with us. We should greet each recurring anniversary with the same feelings of pride and the same patriotic demonstrations by which we are now surrounded. "Our right hand should forget its cunning and our tongues cleave to the roof of our mouths," when we cease to remember the sacrifices and pay due respect to the men who made us what we are.

A hundred years in the past will necessarily be followed by a hundred years in the future. What that future will develop no one can tell. Governments may change, and nations will continue to rise and fall, as heretofore, but may we not, at least, express the hope that our free institutions, whose foundation stones were watered by the tears and cemented by the blood of our fathers, will continue to advance from one degree of excellence to another, until the right of man to self government will be so thoroughly and effectually established that the whole world will join in one universal chant of liberty and independence; commencing and being perpetuated, here, upon the shores of time, and finally finding its full fruition around the throne of God.













